6 AMAZING POSTERS!

MOSH-PITS: HAVE THEY BECOME TOO VIOLENT?

KERRANG! INVESTIGATES

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BLACK SABBATH

OZZY ON THE FINAL GOODBYE!

50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW!

INSIDE THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE RULING ROCK

20 NEW INTERVIEWS... AND A NEW NUMBER ONE!

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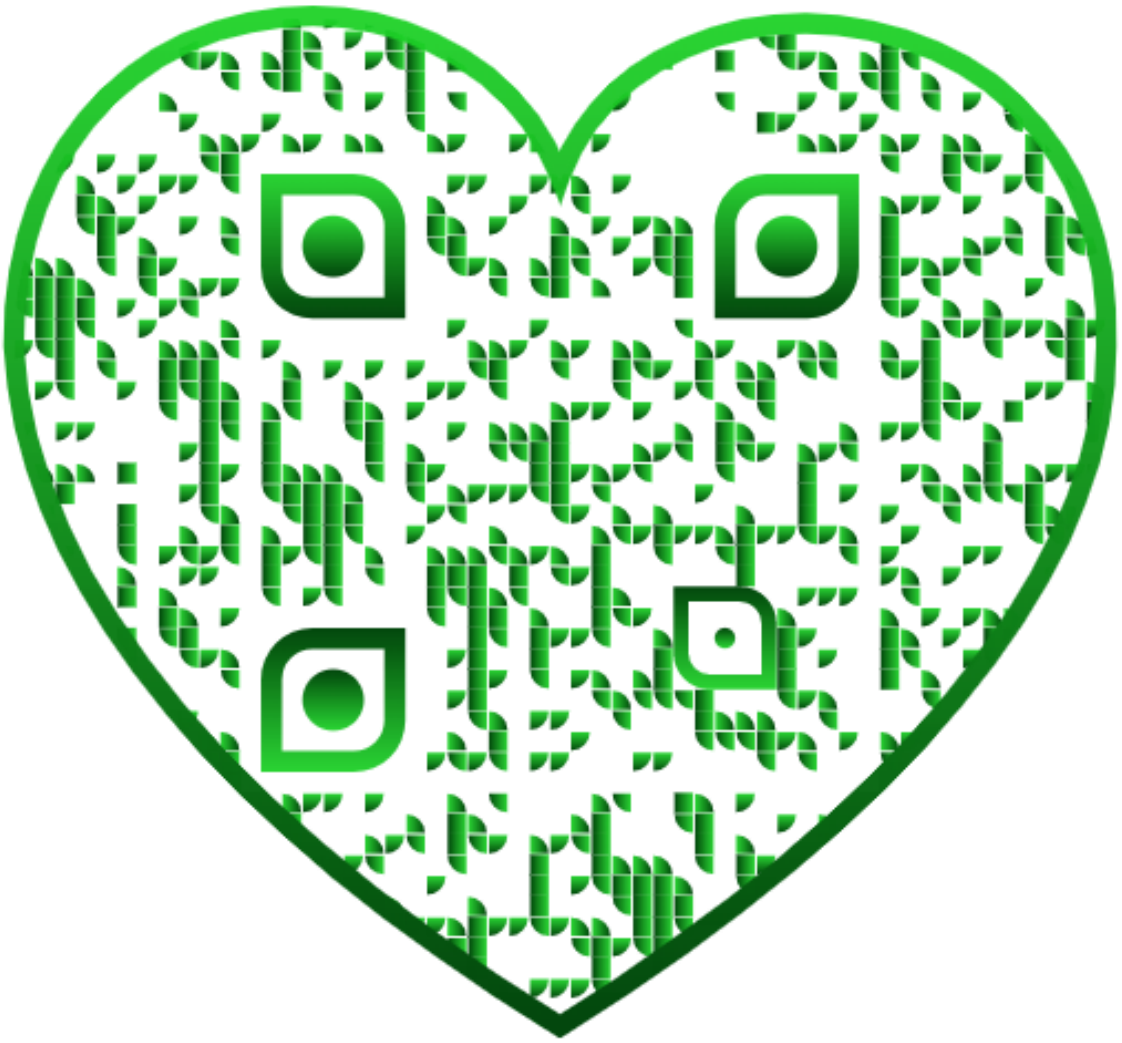

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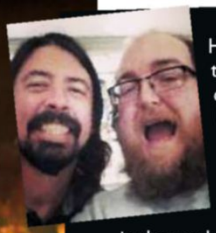

HELLO READERS, and welcome to this week's issue of Kerrang!, this year's countdown of the 50 Greatest Rockstars In The World Right Now – which is always one of my favourite issues to put together. This year I've found it especially exciting, just because it's provided such a respite to all the bullshit taking place in the world right now. Reading the clever words of Cole Becker from SWMRS, or the sassy polemic of Haley Shea of Sløtface, has made me think, 'Yeah, actually, maybe we're gonna be okay after all?' Because smart, passionate, clever people can do that to you. Rock'n'roll can do that to you. Enjoy the issue, you guys!

James

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We bid farewell to the greatest band that ever was… pass the tissues

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Ben Barlow realised he'd missed the last Black Sabbath tour

NEWS

LAND OF HOPE AND NEW FOUND GLORY

THE POP-PUNK GODHEADS ARE COMING TO THE UK – AND BRINGING ALL THEIR SONGS WITH THEM. WHY? BECAUSE THEY LOVE US! AND WE BLOODY LOVE THEM, TOO…

BACK IN DECEMBER, New Found Glory announced an amazing 20th anniversary tour in the States that would see them play *all* their nostalgia albums in full, and it sent us into a major sulk that it wasn't happening in the venues of Blighty. But then the Florida four-piece revealed they were planning the same for us all along, but couldn't announce it because they were on the A Day To Remember tour. So we'll get to see them play Sticks & Stones/Catalyst and Sticks & Stones/self-titled at regional dates, and in London, three shows to fit the vibes of the albums (Sticks & Stones/self-titled at the O2 Forum Kentish Town, Catalyst/Not Without A Fight at the Electric Ballroom and Nothing Gold Can Stay/Coming Home at Camden's Underworld). To celebrate, we caught up with singer Jordan Pundik and guitarist Chad Gilbert in a dressing room, backstage at ADTR's SSE Arena, Wembley gig, to reminisce on two decades of New Found Glory in the UK…

WORDS: JENNYFER JVALKER LIVE PHOTO: XPOSURE

HI, GUYS! CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR MOST DISASTROUS UK SHOW?

JORDAN PUNDIK (*VOCALS*): "Hah! We made a DVD about it, it's called This Disaster and the whole power went out in the venue [London's Forum]."

CHAD GILBERT (*GUITAR*): "It ended up making the show special, but it was weird. The power went out because of all the extra cameras. That place was built in like the 1700s."

JORDAN: "It was out for an hour. What did we do? Just fucked around (*laughs*). We did My Friends Over You acoustic for the first time ever, and I didn't have a mic so I was just singing it out into the crowd."

CHAD: "It's all in the DVD! I think you were wearing a weird shirt, too… some weird button-down thing. It was before you would wear cat shirts."

JORDAN: "I love wearing cat shirts."

WHAT'S THE BEST GIG YOU'VE EVER PLAYED OVER HERE?

CHAD: "When we headlined Brixton [Academy]."

JORDAN: "With Set Your Goals and Four Year Strong."

CHAD: "It was out of control, just how loud everyone sang. When you can hear everyone sing that loud over your guitars onstage, it's pretty cool. I remember playing a song on bass for Set Your Goals, because the bass player got this weird allergy where his hands and his tongue blew up, so he was swollen, and everyone had to learn a song real quick."

JORDAN: "It was cool we got to headline, because the only other time we'd played there was opening for Green Day."

Jordan's mid-set imaginary phone call was an absolute hoot

THE BIG PICTURE

FEAST YOUR EYES ON NEWS!

Y!

"I WANT TO WAKE UP SURROUNDED BY SCENERY, SIPPING TEA!"

JORDAN PUNDIK

WHEN WAS THE MOMENT YOU FELT THE UK ACCEPTED YOU?

JORDAN: "I think from the first moment we played here, when we played the [Leeds] Cockpit in '01. I remember that show specifically because people were just off the wall."

CHAD: "I remember the first time we played Reading & Leeds years and years and years ago, and just seeing that reaction – that was like, 'Holy crap!' In the States there was so much punk-rock that you really had to play a place a *lot* to get people's attention, and the fact that we were only over here once or twice, to see that, it was just like, 'Wow, it's spreading!'"

JORDAN: "That was probably '02. I remember doing that tour in a fucking Sprinter van (*laughs*)."

CHAD: "Yeah, where we had to sit up all the time and couldn't sleep."

JORDAN: "Sitting with your forehead against the seat (*laughs*)."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT THE UK?

JORDAN: "Walking around and going shopping and getting coffee!"

CHAD: "I think mens' clothes in America aren't very good – they suck. There are just no options if you're a punk dude. I literally bought all my clothes for our spring tour over the last few days, for the next year. I haven't had new clothes in forever, and all the things I like – Ben Sherman and Fred Perry – make stuff for guys that fits right and look nice."

JORDAN: "He's mod! Before we had it in the States I would go to Topshop and H&M. And my favourite place for coffee? Starbucks (*laughs*)."

LASTLY, IF YOU COULD SPEND A DAY HERE, WHERE WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

JORDAN: "I would like to spend a day just out in the countryside somewhere. Just wake up and be surrounded by the scenery and sip a tea. Have I seen some countryside I like the look of? Lord Of The Rings (*laughs*)! Just kidding."

CHAD: "I'd just go to London because I love musicals and I love the theatre, so I would probably go shopping all day and then go to [the theatre]. I've seen Spamalot here, I've seen Les Mis, Book Of Mormon… I wanna see Harry Potter. So I would just see a musical and go for a nice dinner somewhere and wander round. I love being able to walk around!"

New Found Glory tour the UK this year – see the **Gig Guide**

Ian Grushka: proudly under-prepared for the crap British weather

THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

After a long shift on the Welsh studio farm, Tom didn't have time to wash his shirt before the photoshoot

PULLED APART BY BY LIFE

PULLED APART BY HORSES ARE ONE OF BRITAIN'S MOST CONSISTENTLY GOOD ROCK BANDS, BUT THEIR EXCELLENT NEW ALBUM ALMOST NEVER MADE IT. HERE FRONT-HORSE **TOM HUDSON** SPILLS THE BEANS ON THE HAZE…

LEEDS ALT.ROCKERS Pulled Apart By Horses are set to return next month with their fourth album, The Haze. A bold, innovative, fierce collection of songs, it's a minor miracle that the record is even coming out at all. Several months after the release of 2014's Blood, the band found themselves without a drummer as Lee Vincent quit in order to 'focus on new projects'. On top of that, they had no manager or label. Eeeek! But, as frontman Tom Hudson tells K!, that period of uncertainty only served to sharpen the band's focus as they settled into a remote Welsh farm to write what may well be their best release yet. We're definitely not foaling around. A little horse joke for you, there. Let's get the scoop…

HELLO, TOM. IT SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ALL GOT A BIT HAIRY FOR A WHILE…

TOM HUDSON (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "After our third album, Blood, we wanted to go with our gut a bit more, so we just sacked everything off and wrote a bunch of tunes. We spent a year without management or a label. We were free agents. But when Lee left, we all shat our pants!"

NOT LITERALLY, WE HOPE. DID YOU SEE LEE'S DEPARTURE COMING?

"It had been coming for six months or so. People change and he'd moved down to London. He's a got a daughter who's six. I think that he felt stuff wasn't right, but he didn't want to let us down. When he finally told us, it was sort of a relief, as we all knew. When Tommy [Davidson, formerly of These Monsters] joined, he brought a new spirit into the band."

HAVE YOU REMAINED FRIENDS?

"Totally! I wish I could tell you a story about it ending in one giant brawl, but it was all cool."

WAS THERE A MOMENT WHEN YOU THOUGHT, 'OH SHIT', AFTER YOU CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM MANAGEMENT AND THE LIKE?

"It was really scary at the start, because you're like, 'What the fuck do we do now?' but it was quite rewarding. When we started, we kinda did that anyway; we were quite involved with the Leeds DIY scene. We're totally a pain in the arse because we want to control everything we're doing."

WHAT WAS PRODUCER ROSS ORTON'S PLAN FOR THE NEW ALBUM?

"He'd seen us randomly in Sheffield and he was like, 'You need to sound like you do live. It needs to be more raw and hit you in the face.' The best part was doing it song-by-song, which we'd not done before. Normally, you'd do the majority of the drums, then the bass… He didn't want anyone sitting around being bored. I preferred it because I'd be listening to the track all day, and stewing over it. When it came to doing the vocals, I'd nail them in two takes."

> **"WHEN LEE LEFT, WE ALL SHAT OUR PANTS!"**
> **TOM HUDSON**

Tom's tangerine holder allowed him to snack hands-free

TELL US ABOUT THE TITLE-TRACK, THE HAZE…

"That's actually one of my favourites – although it changes from day-to-day. We thought it would be the best song to open the album. The vocals and guitar draw you in, and when the whole band come in, it's like a punch in the face. It felt like a good way to introduce the whole album. We're back – have this!"

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR COMING UP WITH THE BEST SONG TITLE WE'VE HEARD IN AGES, NEIGHBOURHOOD WITCH…

"Thanks! That's quite a funny one, actually. I'd just moved house about a year before we started writing. I'd lived in a flat that was quite close to Leeds city centre. I'd moved out to the outskirts and it's proper Neighbourhood Watch suburbia. When I wrote that song, it was from all these elderly neighbours looking out of their windows at me and my girlfriend. I'd get dropped off at four in the morning, kicked out of the van, half-pissed. All these curtain-twitchers would be staring out wondering, 'Who the fuck are these guys?' It's a little about that."

HAVE THE TWITCHY CURTAINS LOT GROWN TO LOVE YOUR MAVERICK SCHEDULE, THEN?

"I *think* I've been accepted. The best bit was we had a New Year's Eve party and it got a bit out of hand. It's so quiet here – you can hear a pin drop. We were going until six in the morning. I saw my neighbour later and said 'Happy New Year' and apologised about the noise. She was like, 'Don't worry about it, I took my hearing aid out when I went to sleep.' I was like, 'Fuck yes!' It means I don't have to worry about playing guitar late at night."

IT'S A VERY GOOD ALBUM…

"Thanks very much, Kerrang!."

PULLED APART BY HORSES RELEASE THE HAZE ON MARCH 17 THROUGH CAROLINE INTERNATIONAL. THE BAND TOUR THE UK IN MARCH AND APRIL – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO

WORDS: SIMON YOUNG LIVE PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

MADINA LAKE RISE!

THE CHICAGOANS ARE REFORMING FOR THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY! HERE, **MATTHEW LEONE** TELLS US WHY YOU SHOULD CATCH 'EM WHILE YOU CAN…

AWESOME NEWS alert: after a four-year hiatus, Madina Lake are back! Double awesome news alert: they're playing Slam Dunk Festival in May! As well as some headline shows – in London, Glasgow and Manchester – the Chicago outfit will also be bringing new tunes (a whole album in one song, anyone?). We called up the very lovely chatterbox-turned-bassist Matthew Leone to find out more. After all, it's been a while…

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER

SO, MATTHEW, WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU ALL BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS?

"Nathan [Leone, vocals] and Mateo [Camargo, guitar/keys] have been writing music for movie trailers and TV shows and film. Dan [Torelli, drums] moved back to Philly where he has two kids, so he's rockin' out to dad life. And I married one of you characters! A Manc, actually. So my wife and I lived in Manchester for the past two years, and we just moved to Los Angeles. I work with Help Musicians UK in England, and Sweet Relief Musicians Fund in America. That's the organisation that rescued me when I got my ass kicked!"

AND HAVE YOU JUST BEEN WANTING TO COME BACK THE WHOLE TIME YOU WERE AWAY?

"When you're able to actually be a career-musician and tour and play shows, transitioning away from that is *incredibly* challenging, so I missed it dearly. I managed to galvanise a relationship with Billy Corgan from the [Smashing] Pumpkins, so I was jamming with those guys, and that was fantastic. But I haven't picked up an instrument in so long, and it really leaves a void in your life. Am I rusty now? Oh my God, I'm terrible (*laughs*). I went from being an average bass player to far below average (*laughs*)."

WHEN BANDS REFORM, PEOPLE ARE OFTEN WAY MORE EXCITED THAN THEY WERE THE FIRST TIME AROUND… ARE YOU HOPING THAT'LL BE THE CASE?

"I hope so! While you're submersed in something you have no idea how it's regarded, so there was a flash in the pan, in like 2007/2008 where we reached a pretty reasonable level. And then it disappeared *so* fast (*laughs*)! And you have no idea why. I think we were so excited that all those people who liked us liked us, so we were always very grateful and got a little too ass-kissy (*laughs*). And that took focus away from the music. We made ourselves a little too accessible. And also being lumped into that whole 'emo' thing – it's amazing how you're marketed really affects people's perspective of you!"

NOT COMING BACK WITH EMO TUNES, THEN?

"The music we're gonna put out now is gonna be interesting, that's for sure. It's gonna be a sort of anti-establishment statement, in the sense of how music *is*. I read a statistic that said kids listen to seven seconds of a song on average these days. So we were like, 'Fuck it, we're gonna make a longer song!' We're not concerned with catching their attention anymore."

AND HOW MANY NEW SONGS HAVE YOU DONE?

"We have one song that is almost an album within itself. It's double digits! It takes you for a ride, and it's no more bullshit. The first time around, we always had this air of 'everything's all good' and that's not realistic. Life is *hard*. Things happen that can pull the rug out from under you, and to look at everything through rose-tinted glasses is a naive way to live."

AND WHAT'S THE PLAN GOING FORWARD?

"We've decided to devote one week a year to Madina – to do shows and release something new so we can have real lives, families, babies, jobs, careers. So we'll break that down between writing and playing shows. We have two songs done, and ambitiously we're hoping to have two more… but realistically, we'll probably [just come back with] two."

"LIFE IS HARD. IT CAN PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER YOU"
MATTHEW LEONE

Madina Lake *play the UK in May – see the* ***Gig Guide***

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN ROCK

THEY SAID WHAT?

"WHAT'S EVERYONE GRATEFUL FOR TODAY?"

DAN SEARLE, ARCHITECTS

ONE VISION

Good news for fans of Orange County metalcore, it looks as if **Eighteen Visions** are set to reform after their break-up in 2007. Three members of the group's final line-up have recently posted a curious photo on their Instagram accounts, alluding to their plans **scratchy chin emoji**. Keep your eyes peeled, folks!

HOW MUCH IS A FLIGHT TO THE U.S.?

Okay, they've got Trump. But they've also got **Muse**, **30 Seconds To Mars** and **PVRIS** on tour together, starting on May 30 in West Palm Beach, Florida. We're currently looking down the back of the Kerrang! office sofa trying to scrape together change for a plane ticket.

RADIO GAGA

Despite having to cancel shows in Europe recently, at the time of going to press **Metallica** were set to perform at the GRAMMYs, joined by none other than **Lady Gaga** herself. We're absolutely mad for Lady Gaga here at K!, so we were very excited to write these words! Details surrounding their performance were very hush-hush, but the airing of a TV commercial in America hinted at a 'duet'. Presuming it happened, come back next week for more!

SPINESHANK (NOT THE BAND)

Slipknot guitarist **Mick Thomson** has revealed that he has been recovering from a serious spinal operation. Mick posted this news on Instagram and jokingly said that he has joined the 'cyborg club' alongside **Corey Taylor** and **Jim Root**, who have also undergone spinal surgery in the past year or so. All of us at Kerrang! wish Mick a speedy recovery and hope to see him shredding it real soon.

Tom DeLonge's spaceship Uber was taking forever

I WANT TO BELIEVE

We all know **Tom DeLonge**, of **blink-182** and **Angels & Airwaves**, has an – ahem – mild interest in aliens and UFOs, but now he's just confirmed that he is soon to release a non-fiction book, co-written with author Peter Levenda, about all things extra-terrestrial. The book, titled Sekret Machines: Gods, is the follow-up to last year's fictional Sekret Machines: Chasing Shadows, and promises to challenge people's preconceptions of UFOs and other strange happenings in the cosmos, with interviews from scientists, engineers and military officials. The book will be made available on March 7. Up next? Our Tom is directing a sci-fi about… you guessed it… aliens.

LIVE AND WIRED!

MALLORY KNOX LAUNCH K! TV'S EXCITING NEW FRANCHISE, KERRANG! SESSIONS, WITH A BANG!

WANT A LIVE experience in the comfort of your hand, but don't fancy the hassle of crafting tiny guitars and drums, then teaching ants to play them? Well, Kerrang! TV launched their brand-new, and exciting franchise, Kerrang! Sessions, last week. The new show, which is streamed live directly onto YouTube and Facebook, is set to take over the airwaves with killer live performances from some of the biggest and best names in rock. And what better way to introduce it, than one of Britain's finest, Mallory Knox? The Cambridge rockers played two new songs in an acoustic style-y, Giving It Up and Better Off Without You, and we spoke to frontman Mikey Chapman about their long-awaited new album, and performing live to just a camera…

DO YOU FIND IT A BIT WEIRD THAT ANYONE IN THEIR PANTS COULD BE WATCHING?

"Yeah! I mean, it could literally be anyone, I don't know… Brad Pitt, bored on the set, or on his lunch break, tunes into Kerrang! and then there it is. I'm waiting for Brad to tweet me now saying how much of a good job we did (*laughs*)."

THIS WAS STREAMED LIVE ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK AND ALL OVER SOCIAL MEDIA – HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

"I find it quite exhilarating… it's a great way to get a point or a message out, especially if you've got something to say, whether it would be to advertise something or even to have a conversation to make things known."

AND ALL JUST IN TIME FOR THE RELEASE OF YOUR NEW ALBUM, WIRED, EH?

"It's funny, we haven't even been out and gigged these songs yet and we've already had to come up with some acoustic versions. But yeah, it's been a long time coming, we've been writing for a long time and recording and doing all the behind-the-scenes shit waiting for this to happen, and now that it is, it is very welcomed."

FINALLY, ARE YOU READY TO BRING THESE NEW SONGS OUT ON THE ROAD IN MARCH?

"Yeah, I always have this anxiety before we go into a new record because I want to push myself a little bit more, but there's always this pre-match nerves when it comes to [releasing it]. We're very, *very* excited, but at the same time we're making sure we can play the songs as well as possible. We want to do them justice."

Watch **Mallory Knox**'s Kerrang! Sessions performance at **Kerrang.com**

Mikey mistook K! Sessions for archery training

WORDS: JAMES HINGLE

FROST DUN

twenty one pilots have revealed a behind-the-scenes look at their new music video. Shot just outside their hometown of Columbus, Ohio, the new clip **insert terrible Sir David Attenborough accent here** shows the boys in their natural habitat, and teaches us a lot. Like? Well, TØP and crew had to start filming at 7am to guarantee that they captured the mist of the morn. Not only that, but Josh Dun's drum kit was reportedly frozen during the whole filming process and he was fearful of frostbite. Fucking ouch!

THEY SAID WHAT?

"I TRY TO KEEP MY POLITICS OFF TWITTER, BUT THE BAN ON REFUGEES IS DISGRACEFUL. PLEASE REFER TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. I LOVE YOU ALL"

MARK HOPPUS, BLINK-182

WHAT'S GONE WRONG WITH OUR MOSH PITS?

FOLLOWING THE SHOCKING INJURIES SUSTAINED BY FAN EMILY HOFFMAN AT A CODE ORANGE SHOW LAST MONTH, KERRANG!'S SIMON YOUNG LOOKS DEEPER INTO WHETHER THE CULTURE OF MOSH-PITS IS BEING DANGEROUSLY ABUSED...

KERRANG! INVESTIGATES

Right now, Emily Hoffman is in agony. On January 21, the 22-year-old went to see Pittsburgh hardcore quartet Code Orange at a small club in Salt Lake City. During the band's set, she was knocked unconscious by a man wearing steel toe-capped boots, who broke her jaw with a roundhouse kick.

Moshing flourished in the punk and hardcore scene across the U.S. in the '80s. But in recent years, an even more aggressive form of self-expression known as 'crowd killing' has reared its ugly head. In the pit, you'll sometimes find people wildly throwing their fists around and performing spin-kicks with no regard for those around them. Contact is often deliberate. Emily was one such victim, yet her assailant fled the show. From her hospital bed, she posted a blog and a series of photographs detailing her injuries in the hope he may be held accountable for his actions.

"My right side of my jaw was no longer connected to my skull or muscle; it was still in my face because of my skin," she wrote. "My jaw has been restructured and my brain has stopped bleeding. I can't speak and I have lost

PHOTO: GETTY

nine pounds in seven days because I can't have anything but liquids. When you go to a show where there will be moshing and you wear steel-toe boots, your intentions are to hurt someone. I really don't have the words for what you are."

Luckily, we don't hear of horrific incidents like this all too often, yet we've all had someone barge past us nursing a bloody nose or missing a tooth at a gig. Hell, some of us have been *that* person. But is the mosh-pit becoming an increasingly more dangerous place?

When it comes to a good mosh, it's handy to know the unwritten rules so you don't unwittingly become a pariah of the pit. Basically, if you see someone fall down, you pick them up. Keep your elbows down, too. Keep your wits about you. Don't be a dick and have fun. Got all that? Lovely.

Madball's Freddy Cricien, who cut his teeth at New York's famously brutal hardcore shows, has seen it all.

"Slamming definitely got more aggressive over the years," says the vocalist. "It was part of the evolution of the scene. At our shows, slamming and diving are all part of the culture. People were doing all the kicks back then – it's not new."

Yet some bands in rock's pantheon have actively discouraged moshing at their shows. Fugazi, for example, would often chastise the crowd for aggressive dancing. A Google search will give you a two-minute video of At The Drive-In vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala chewing out a crowd for slam dancing. But they're in a minority. Most bands encourage mosh-pits, circle-pits or even the 'wall of death'. It's responsible for a fair chunk of injuries at rock festivals. One research paper on file at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (The Mosh Pit Experience: Emergency Medical Care For Concert Injuries) found that 37 per cent of festival-related injuries were caused by moshing. In 2014, Warped Tour attracted criticism for hanging banners which read: 'You mosh, you crowd-surf, you get hurt, we get sued – no More Warped Tour.' Which, if you bought a ticket specifically to mosh or crowd-surf, is a bit of a mood dampener. But according to Warped boss Kevin Lyman, it was a preventative measure to safeguard themselves for any potential litigation. "This is a reminder to be safe and take care of each other," he said. But who's responsible then?

Emmure frontman Frankie Palmeri says to place sole responsibility on the bands is unfair.

"You can't predict what will happen," says Frankie. "Angry motherfuckers listen to angry shit and when they start hearing that beat, they're going to start throwing their arms around."

Trivium's Matt Heafy, however, reckons that bands should feel obligated to keep watch during their set.

"It's integral while amping everyone up that a band keep lookout for the safety of the people who support them," says Matt. "Have fun, be nuts, but don't be out to hurt your friends. Everyone at the show is equal and a supporter of the same movement."

Suicide Silence vocalist Eddie Hermida, meanwhile, thinks there's a fine balance to be struck.

"We all want our pits to look violent, but you don't want to incite a riot," says Eddie. "It can get out of hand quickly, so I think keeping calm is the best course of action. But, if you don't want to get hurt, stay away from all the people going apeshit in the middle and front."

Bury Tomorrow's Dani Winter-Bates says his band thrives off seeing a huge pit.

"Metal shows *are* brutal, and I think really you should know that if you're in the middle of a pit there's a strong chance you'll get hurt," says Dani. "A heaving pit is one of the best aspects of being in a metal band. But ultimately, you just need to look out for each other and don't do things designed to hurt others."

"IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT, GET INTO MMA. SEE HOW THAT PANS OUT FOR YOU..."

MATT HEAFY, TRIVIUM

Emily Hoffman shared these shocking images of injuries she sustained

The injuries that Emily Hoffman sustained are an extremely rare thing at rock shows. While Code Orange declined to comment further, the band released a statement: "We've played hardcore shows all around the world and this is the first and only time an injury of this nature has taken place. We have all kinds of different people at these shows, and we have to all take care of each other – always."

During our series of interviews, there seems to be a common consensus that, despite Emily's incident, gig safety has changed for the better.

"I used to see bones broken all the time and once saw a kid get his front four teeth knocked out," says Eddie Hermida. "I've witnessed compound fractures and dislocated knees and shoulders, but I think shows are becoming less violent these days."

Frankie Palmeri thinks that social media may have played a positive role in this turnaround.

"People are more connected than you could even imagine," says the Emmure man. "So if you're at a show, the potential for you to be ultra-violent is slim. When I went to shows when I was younger, you never knew what was going to happen. Now, I don't get that vibe."

"There'll always be people who take it too far," adds Matt Heafy. "If you wanna fight, get into MMA and pick on a pro – see how that pans out for you."

There's no correct way to enjoy a show. Whether you want to get in the mix, then that's up to you. If you want to watch from the back, that's fine, too. Simply pick your spot and keep your eyes open. But remember: it's down to *all* of us to ensure everyone has a safe, enjoyable time.

Have your say on the matter – **Feedback@kerrang.com**

DOCTOR MOSH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S DR. JESSE SILVERBERG CO-WROTE A PAPER ON THE PHYSICS OF MOSHING. HERE'S WHAT WE LEARNED...

WHAT INSPIRED THE IDEA TO RESEARCH MOSH-PITS?

"About 10 years ago, I'd taken my girlfriend at the time to her first metal concert. Normally I'd be in the pit, but because I wanted her to have a good time, we stood off to the side. At the time I was doing my undergraduate degree in physics and I discovered that the things we talked about in class were playing out in front of me."

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER THROUGH YOUR RESEARCH?

"We found that people in the pit itself moved around like molecules of gas. By trying to understand this, we used equations that are usually used to describe how birds flock and fish swim in schools. These not only explained the pits, they predicted the circle-pits. We think of ourselves as humans with rich cognitive lives that will govern our choices, but at a collective level, the way we move is no different to birds or bacteria."

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF PEOPLE WHO USE MOSHING AS AN EXCUSE TO BE VIOLENT?

"I've never met anyone who's gone into a pit with the purpose of being violent. But as the room gets hotter, there's not a lot of deliberate thought. There's always a few bad apples, but people do look out for each other."

K!ONFIDENTIAL
ROCK GOSSIP AND GIBBERISH

WELCOME TO PURRADISE!

TRÉ COOL WENT TO A CAT CAFÉ AND WE'RE NOT SURE WHO TO BE MORE JEALOUS OF – HIM OR THE CATS...

DESPITE TELLING Kerrang! he's allergic to cats and calling them "sniffy" in K!1650, last week Tré Cool visited a café full of the things. News reaches us that the Green Day drummer and his wife Sara Rose visited Cat Café Manchester on a Saturday afternoon, ahead of the trio's arena show on February 6, much to the surprise of store manager Emma Higgins.

"I couldn't believe it. I'm a massive fan," she told Manchester Evening News. "I actually went to the show. The whole night I just kept thinking, 'I can't believe I met him on Saturday.'

"He was so friendly and nice, and his wife was lovely. They were trying to debate whether to get their own cat to go on tour with them."

A Norwegian forest cat named Ygritte, a Siamese kitten called Stanley and Ragamuffin kitten Hugo were the lucky moggys to be stroked by Tré Cool's calloused drummer hands, while the café's other furry residents were left to walk to the Boulevard Of Broken Dreamies.

"Thanks Manchester!" Tré wrote on Instagram after: "We love coming here! I recommend a visit to the Cat Café. These kitties will melt your heart! Good coffee as well!"

Next week, Billie Joe goes to one of those weird cuddle cafés in Japan. More news as we have it.

WILL GOULD SPILLS THE BEANS ON THE NEW CREEPER ALBUM...

PHOTO: RICHARD TERMINE

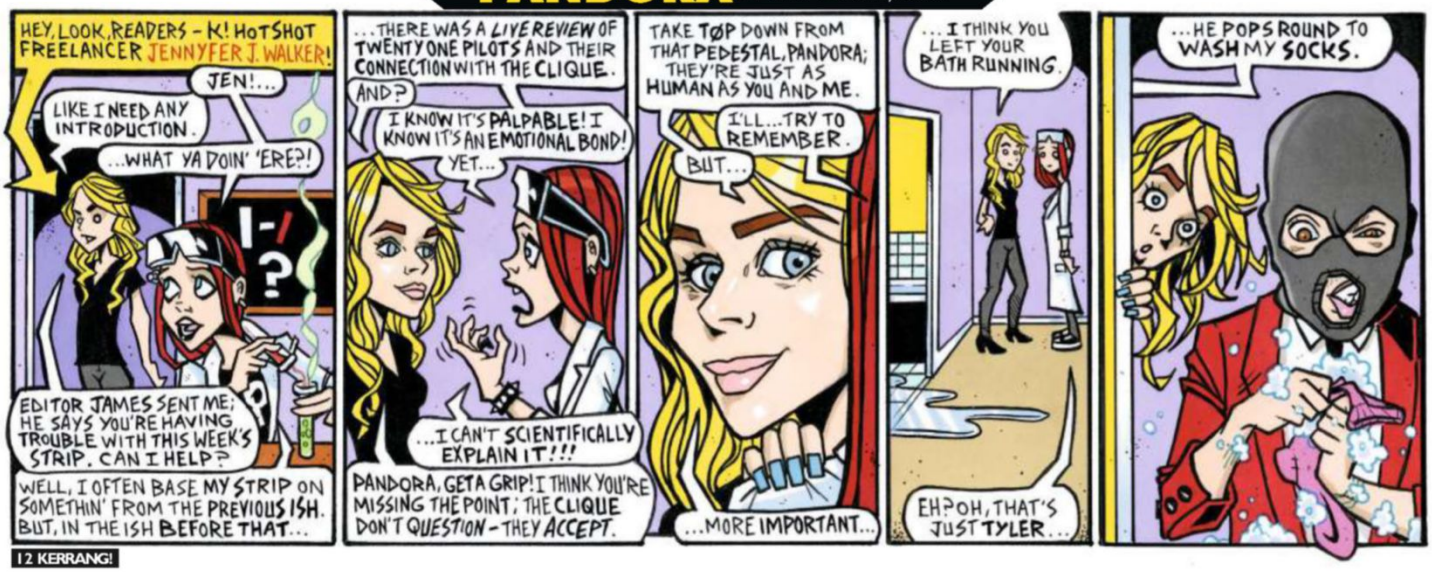
MEANWHILE, ON TWITTER...

CATS THAT LOOK LIKE ALEX GASKARTH!

SPOTTED

Deputy Labour leader Tom Watson, Brummie comedy hero Jasper Carrott and Andy Townsend at Black Sabbath's victorious Birmingham homecoming ❱ *Eccentric art metal hero Jamie Lenman at eccentric outgoing K! Deputy Editor George Garner's leaving do* ❱ Bran Stark from Game Of Thrones at a swanky party in London (he could walk, though #tellylies) ❱ *SEEN A ROCKSTAR DOING SOMETHING? TELL US AT FEEDBACK@KERRANG.COM*

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com



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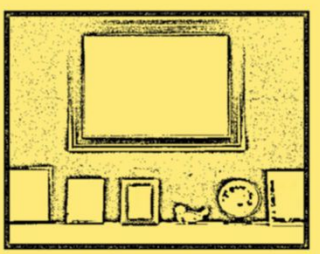
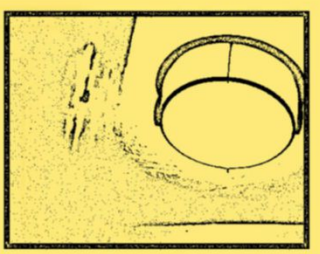
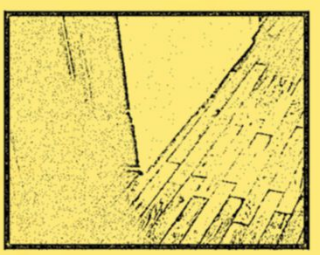
16 APR.	*LONDON ELECTRIC BALLROOM*







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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

CLEARLY, **LTA** HAD ENOUGH OF BEING SECOND. CAN NEW ENTRIES FROM **MALLORY KNOX**, **WATERPARKS** AND **VUKOVI** CHANGE THAT NEXT WEEK, THOUGH?

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	8	1	LOWER THAN ATLANTIS	Had Enough	EASY LIFE
2	2	2	BIFFY CLYRO	Flammable	14TH FLOOR
3	5	3	CREEPER	Hiding With Boys	ROADRUNNER
4	8	1	YOU ME AT SIX	Swear	SONY
5	11	2	GREEN DAY	Still Breathing	REPRISE
6	2	6	DEAF HAVANA	Fever	SO RECORDINGS
7	9	4	KORN	Take Me	ROADRUNNER
8	4	6	FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES	Wild Flowers	KOBALT
9	6	9	BFMV	Don't Need You	SPINEFARM
10	3	10	DANNY WORSNOP	Mexico	EARACHE
11	2	11	STARSET	Monster	RAZOR & TIE
12	1	12	MALLORY KNOX	Better Off Without You	SONY
13	5	7	MOOSE BLOOD	Cheek	SPINEFARM
14	6	14	WHILE SHE SLEEPS	Hurricane	SELF-RELEASE
15	1	15	WATERPARKS	Royal	EASY LIFE
16	9	1	BIFFY CLYRO	Re-arrange	14TH FLOOR
17	11	2	MALLORY KNOX	Giving It Up	SONY
18	13	1	BMTH	Oh No	SONY
19	16	3	AIRBOURNE	Rivalry	SPINEFARM
20	1	20	VUKOVI	La Di Da	LAB RECORDS

JANINE SHILSTONE, VUKOVI

HEY, JANINE! HOW DID LA DI DA COME ABOUT?

"I wish I had a more interesting story, but I was drunk and started playing about on GarageBand one night. I sent it over to the boys to have a listen to see if they could work their magic with it, but it seemed to get shelved for a bit. Something kept niggling at me to go back to it, so I said to Hamish [Reilly, guitar] one night to come to mine. He brought his guitar and mini amp and I provided my trusty GarageBand and pretentious cocktails. It just sort of came together at that point! It was at that moment we were like, 'Fuck, this could be our next single.'"

THE TRACK IS TAKEN FROM YOUR DEBUT ALBUM – HOW EXCITED ARE YOU FOR PEOPLE TO HEAR IT?

"The closer the release gets, the more real it's all beginning to feel! I'm starting to believe the album is going to be a game-changer for us, so its release really can't come quick enough!"

DUSTIN BATES, STARSET

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR SINGLE, MONSTER, MAKING WAVES IN THE KERRANG! ROCK CHART AND THE UK?

"It's exciting! We honestly love it there, and hope to grow the fanbase enough to be able to come play there again soon."

HOW DID MONSTER ACTUALLY COME ABOUT, THEN?

"I wrote the melody with my friend Johnny in Atlanta. We knew we had something cool and I sat on it for a while trying to get the right lyrics. A couple of months later the hook hit me while sitting on a rooftop patio alongside the beach in Venice."

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(L – R) Nandi Plunkett (keys/vocals), Adan Carlo (bass/vocals), Zack Levine (drums/vocals), Joshua Marre (guitar/vocals), Evan Stephens Hall (vocals/guitar), Samuel Skinner (guitar)

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

PINEGROVE

FOR FANS OF: MODERN BASEBALL, THE FRONT BOTTOMS, COUNTRY

HOLD ON... COUNTRY AND EMO? HOW DOES THAT EVEN WORK?

Perfectly naturally, in Pinegrove's case. Songwriter and vocalist Evan Stephens Hall has an affinity for both genres and, thanks to his dad being a multi-instrumentalist composer, he had the instruments at his disposal to experiment blending the two together. "I had access to a lot of sounds and I really love exploring that," Evan tells K! as he drives through Oklahoma. "We listen to a lot of country, so it's not surprising that it's ended up in our music. And, honestly, I just love music that's kinda twangy."

NOTHING WRONG WITH SOME TWANG. WHAT ELSE ARE PINEGROVE ABOUT, OTHER THAN COUNTRY?

Well, they've been plugging away at this for a while. Despite last year being "literally the first time any blog cared about us", according to Evan, Pinegrove have existed in some form or another for 10 years. The band's first EP was a one-man project, based out of Evan's New Jersey bedroom. "To be straight-up," Evan continues, "this is what I've wanted to do since I was a kid, and I've worked really hard to make this a possibility. I've had jobs that sucked and made me feel

> **"THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I KNOW I'LL BE HAPPY..."**

really bad about myself, so I had to make this work because it's the only way I know I'll be happy. It's honestly no exaggeration to say that it was a life or death thing." Eventually, the operation grew and today there are six Pinegrove members – all longtime friends of Evan – who call the band their full-time job. Safe to say the hard work is paying off.

ALWAYS NICE WHEN A BAND IS JUST A BIG BUNCH OF MATES, INNIT?

Sure is. And there's no other way Evan would want to do this. Pinegrove is his baby, after all, and he needs to make sure it's being looked after properly. "It wouldn't be possible to share this with people I didn't really trust," he says. "And this extends outside of the playing band, too. If you're gonna be on the team, you've gotta be cool and you've gotta be part of the family."

IS THIS FAMILY COMING TO THE UK ANY TIME SOON?

Yep. They're here in late February and in Europe 'til the middle of March – which, Evan tells us, is when they head home to record new music. Worth noting as well that this is only Pinegrove's third trip to the UK and they're already playing the 1,000-plus cap Scala in London. "A sweaty packed basement is where we still feel most at home," Evan says. "And playing in front of a good deal of people is intimidating." Close your eyes, Evan, you're gonna have to get used to it.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT? Country-tinged emo lot slowly but surely taking over the world.
HEAR: Last year's album, Cardinal.
MORE INFO: @PinegroveBand
CHECK OUT: The band on tour throughout the UK and Europe in the coming months!
DON'T MISS: Pinegrove and more new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

WORDS: RYAN DE FREITAS

Slam Dunk

— 20 FESTIVAL 17 —

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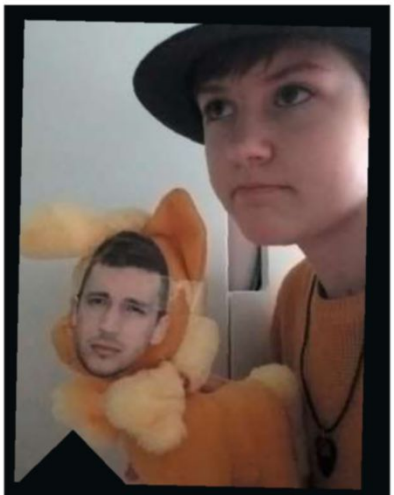
THIS AIN'T A SCENE, IT'S AN ART RACE

"In celebration of four years since the hiatus and 10 years since Infinity On High," says **@mazieioh**. *Pete looks pretty sneaky in this drawing. Our guess is he's hiding from us and our constant 'WHERE IS THE NEW FALL OUT BOY ALBUM, BRO?' questions. Which is fair.*



MARE IN MY HEART

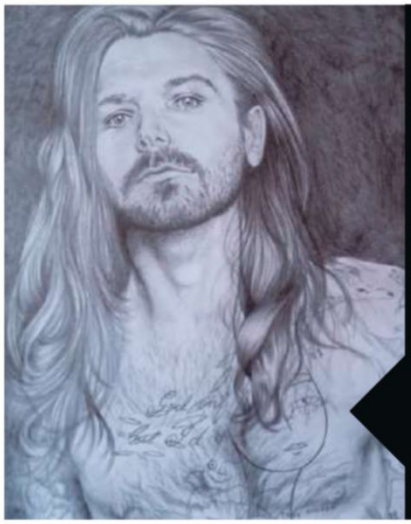
"Sadly, I don't have a selfie of me riding a rockstar like a horse… But I do have the next best thing. This TyJo pony has been scaring my mum all week," says **Jay Grzalek**. *No kidding, Jay. This is pretty weird. But we're sure Blurry-neigh would approve.*

THE TASTE OF INK

"Here's a digital painting that I've done of my favourite, Bert McCracken! The Used are my favouritest ever and I would love for this to be featured," says **Kay**. *This is a phenomenal piece of art. In fact, it's not just phenomenal, it's Bert McCRACKING! Hahaha. Haha. Haaaaaa. Ha.*

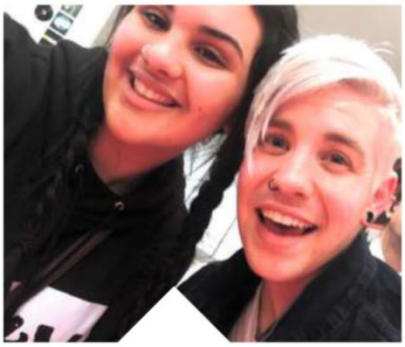
BEAM IT DOWN

"Blessed I had the chance to meet A7X, and managed to get photos with everyone except Johnny Christ," says **@Elleennn333**. *Aw, poor Johnny! At least M. Shadows looks happy about your choice in band-member-selfie-taking. He's like, 'Hell yeah, I'm so much more badass than that other bassist guy!' Harsh, Shadows. Harsh.*



THAT GOLDEN DOODLE

The very talented **@killthealien6** *has drawn a ton of Biffy pics, and this is our favourite. "Can't wait to see Biffy Clyro again!" she smiles. You and us both, dude. Although it looks like we'll be seeing Simon in shampoo and conditioner adverts before then, based on his luscious locks here. Seriously, we could take a lovely nap in that hair.*

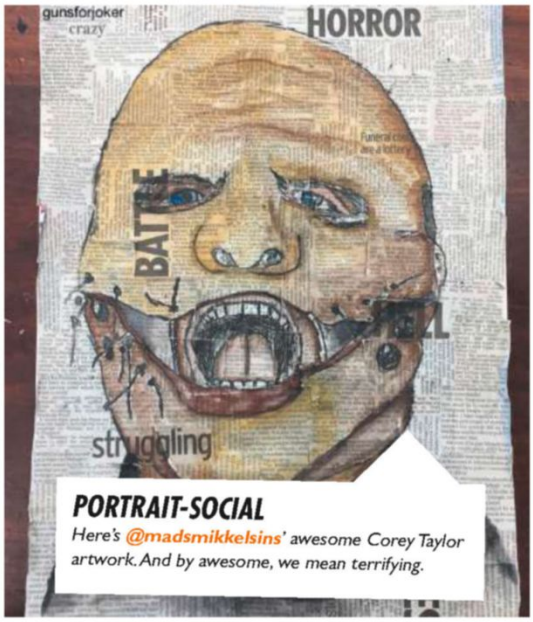


CHEAP SHOTS & SELFIES

"I met Patty Walters! Best night of my life," grins **@trashydunjoseph**. *Nice! You guys always seem to meet Patty, and he never looks anything less than 100 per cent stoked in the pics. Giz us some of that PMA please, sir.*

BAKE VEIL BRIDES

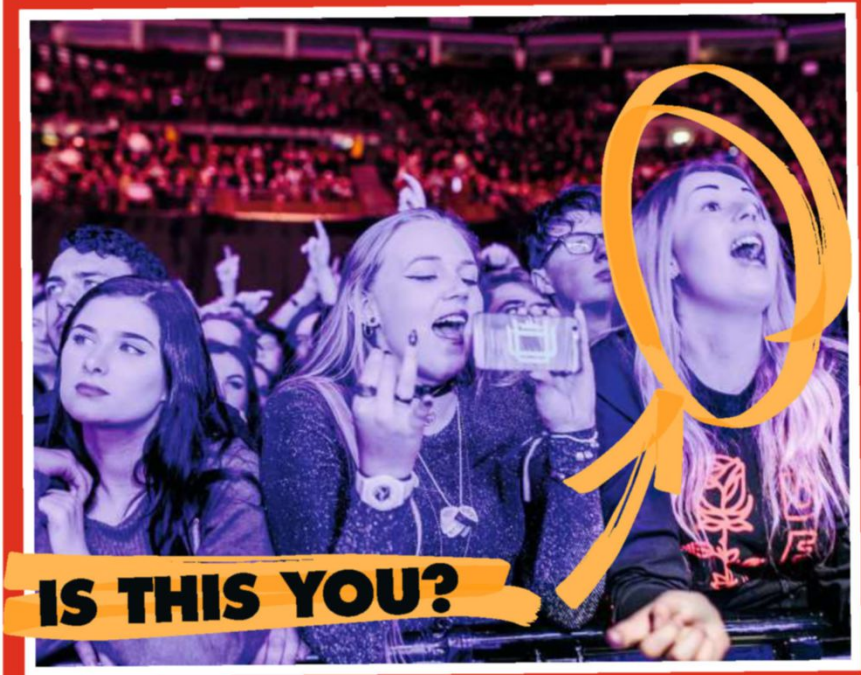
"So my birthday was yesterday and I got a Black Veil Brides cake made for me!" says @blackveilbride. Yuuuuum! We asked for Black Veil Brides-themed sausage and mash for our birthday, but it didn't look as fancy as this.



PORTRAIT-SOCIAL

Here's @madsmikkelsins' awesome Corey Taylor artwork. And by awesome, we mean terrifying.

FACE IN THE CROWD



IS THIS YOU?

BAND: Neck Deep
WHEN: 28.01.17
WHERE: Leeds First Direct Arena, supporting A Day To Remember

■ ARE YOU trying to catch a gobstopper thrown by Ben Barlow? Because you've got an excellent technique if so. As a reward for you efforts, send us a snap of your ticket stub to Feedback@kerrang.com – ***BECAUSE YOU'VE WON TWO TICKETS TO SEE EVAROSE!***

THANK YOU FOR THE PENOM

*"So I did this…" reveals someone under the name of **Matty Healy** via email. If this drawing of Gerard Way really is by The 1975 frontman, we're impressed. If not… we're still impressed, just less so. Only joking.*

WATERP-ARTS

Following our instructions, this is @chloesws_' Geoff-Wigington-from-Waterparks-on-a-turtle pic. And it's turtley rad! Urgh, sorry.

WINNER!

THREE CHEERS FOR SWEET REPTILES

"My entry for this week's contest!" says @KohaiFlower. "It's a slow ride." Very good, and nice one on completing our request for a rockstar riding a giant turtle. You've made all our dreams come true, and we're betting you had a SHELL of a good time making this. Little turtle pun for you there. Anyway, get in touch at Feedback@kerrang.com, because you've won tickets to Reading & Leeds!

NEXT WEEK

WIN!

MEET-AND-GREET, PLUS TIX + MERCH!

Wanna hang out with **Suicide Silence**, as well as winning tickets to see them live and getting your hands on some sweet merch? Here's what we need from you this week… 1) Our Number One in this week's 50 Greatest Rockstars feature made out of cereal. 2) A selfie with Parkway Drive shredding some waves. 3) A drawing of your favourite band where they're holding unicorns instead of instruments. GOOD LUCK!

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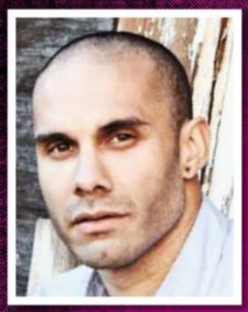

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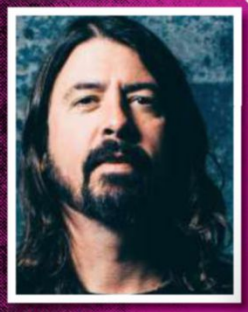
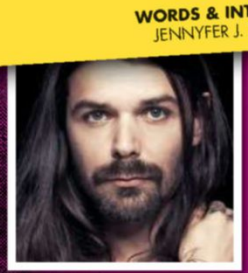
PRESENTS



50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS RIGHT NOW!

FIRST, IN 2011, IT WAS JASON AALON BUTLER. SINCE THEN, OZZY, ANGUS YOUNG, SIMON NEIL, LEMMY AND LYNN GUNN HAVE ALL HELD THE TITLE. BUT IN 2017, WHO WILL BE YOUR *ALL-NEW* GREATEST ROCKSTAR IN THE WORLD?

WORDS & INTERVIEWS: RYAN DE FREITAS (RDF), JAMES HICKIE (JH), SAM LAW (SL), JAMES MACKINNON (JMK), NICK RUSKELL (NR), DAN SLESSOR (DS), PAUL TRAVERS (PT), JENNYFER J. WALKER (JJW), IAN WINWOOD (IW); SAM COARE, SIMON YOUNG **PHOTOS:** CHAD ELDER, GETTY, PAUL HARRIES, ANDREW LIPOVSKY, ANDREW STUART



TURN THE PAGE TO BEGIN...

50 JOHAN HEGG

AMON AMARTH

NEW ENTRY

If you think about it, Vikings were the original rockstars. The drinking. The hell-raising. The endless world tours. All of which makes Johan Hegg's inclusion on this list seem mind-bogglingly overdue. Ten albums, 25 years, and God knows how many goblets of mead into Amon Amarth's skull-cracking career, however, he's finally pillaged a spot. Larger-than-life in both his towering size and booming on (and off) stage persona, he'd could scarcely be more 'Viking' without nicking all our gold and setting our office on fire. And, with AA's first major UK festival headline date looming at Bloodstock, we can expect their most daring raid yet. *(SL)*

Q&A WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE VIKINGS WERE THE ROCKSTARS OF THEIR ERA?

"I guess you could say that! They were feared, they lived a touring lifestyle, and they partied a lot, and that sounds like a good description of rockstars, too!"

DOES HAVING A LIFE-SIZE LONGSHIP ONSTAGE WITH YOU INCREASE YOUR ROCKSTAR POWER?

"I think being able to bring big production with you is always going to feel like a big step up in the rockstar stakes. I'd say that the ship was also their equivalent of the tour bus. It probably scared more people when they saw it coming, though."

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED MUCH IN THE WAY OF ARCHETYPAL ROCKSTAR MOMENTS?

"Honestly, I don't think any of the members in this band see ourselves as rockstars – everything is a group effort, and I don't think we really have those moments, either onstage or off. I guess there are very occasionally those times where you're in a bad mood and you behave a bit too much like Spinal Tap's Nigel Tufnel, but that's because you're grumpy, not because that's the way you actually are all of the time."

ARE HOMEGROWN ROCKSTARS HELD IN HIGH REGARD IN YOUR NATIVE SWEDEN?

"I think a lot of people *wish* to be rockstars, but Swedish rockstars are not held in high esteem, while foreign rockstars are. We have something in Sweden called the 'Jante Law', which roughly translates as the 'Who-The-Hell-Do-You-Think-You-Are?-Law', which applies to society in general, and so anyone thinking themselves a rockstar and better than everyone else is definitely going to have that thrown at them!"

49 JANINE SHILSTONE

VUKOVI

NEW ENTRY

If you're a band on the cusp of being 2017's breakout success story, as Scottish quartet Vukovi are with the forthcoming release of their self-titled debut, you need someone confident up front. Step forward Janine Shilstone: singer of songs, kicker of arses and taker of names. Whether it's her characteristically energetic live performances or donning reptilian contact lenses and draping a python across her shoulders in the video for single La Di Da, Janine is one of UK rock's most colourful characters. Not that she takes herself too seriously, though; her Twitter bio proudly declares it's all about 'Sex, drugs and sausage rolls'. *(JH)*

HEAR THE ROAR OF... 48

JUSTINE JONES

EMPLOYED TO SERVE

NEW ENTRY

WHEN SHE'S NOT LEADING HER OWN BAND, SHE'S HELPING OTHERS AT THE UK'S COOLEST LABEL. PAUL TRAVERS MEETS THE NEW QUEEN OF DIY...

Last year's Damnation Festival was a dream for the aficionado of extremity. It's not easy standing out when you have the riff-lords of Electric Wizard and the mind-bending prog-metal of Enslaved to compete with, but rewind to November and Employed To Serve are busy making an indelible impression.

The bodies start to slam as the music rages like a maelstrom, pitched somewhere between the controlled chaos of Botch and Agoraphobic Nosebleed. This is most certainly not for the faint-hearted. Bassist Jamie Venning sacrifices his instrument, smashing it to pieces and handing out chunks to the grasping audience. It's an incessant assault on the senses but the main focal point is the small figure at the front, hunched over and issuing larynx-shredding screams like she's expelling a whole legion of inner demons.

This is Justine Jones and she's one of the most incendiary vocalists you're going to encounter all year.

"When did I learn to scream? I started when I was 14, shouting along to that Enter Shikari song Sorry You're Not A Winner. Then, later on, when I was 17, I got into deathcore and I started learning how to do vocals to that. I was properly screaming by then," she laughs.

Employed To Serve started as a two-person bedroom project, but as the ideas continued to grow and expand they realised the band had to as well.

"Our first gig was at the Camden Unicorn, which is a cool little free-entry venue," Justine recalls. "I actually wanted to throw up. I was so nervous because I'd never performed before. I was in a little band when I was 14 but we only played in front of parents so this was my first proper band. I remember feeling euphoric afterwards, though, and happy that I did it."

A lot of Employed To Serve's songs are about getting out there, doing *something*, fighting apathy. In 2014 they released the tellingly-titled Change Nothing Regret Everything EP, while Tower Mouth, from debut album Greyer Than You Remember, sees Justine scream, *'There's no time to surrender / Don't give in, don't give in'*.

"I'd advise anyone to just go for it but be under no illusion that it's gonna be easy. If you want to be in a band you have to put a lot of effort in, but the pay-off is worth it. It's so much fun touring with your friends and connecting with strangers," she says.

'Just do it' might be the corporate slogan of a sportswear giant, but it's not bad advice to live by and it also saw Justine and her bandmates take a DIY approach to getting themselves out there. It also indirectly led to the singer landing a job at one of the UK's coolest labels, Holy Roar – the current or former home of bands including Rolo Tomassi, Gallows and Brutality Will Prevail.

"We were playing shows with [label founder] Alex Fitzpatrick's old band and I was booking our European tour. I was quite organised with it and Alex went, 'Hey, I need an intern…'" she recalls. "As of last year I started full-time. It's a real treat coming off tour and not being bummed out about going back to work. I studied animation and I didn't actually intend on working in music."

Holy Roar, like Employed To Serve, are staunchly independent and dedicated to creativity. In 2017 it's easier than ever for bands to record, release and promote their own music, but Justine thinks true

independent labels still have a role to play.

"We try to facilitate growth. We try to look out for tours and shows for our bands. We'll offer support and advice, but at the same time we'll give them lots of breathing room in terms of what they want to do creatively. I guess it's more a mentoring label," she says.

As for her own ambitions and goals, she's ticking them off as she goes along.

"I had somebody show me a tattoo of my band's logo, and that was the most incredible thing. I also got to play with Funeral For A Friend and that was a bucket list thing," she grins.

Humble and occasionally starstruck she might be, but Justine has a surfeit of star quality of her own. Stand well back and feel the fury.

PHOTO: GOBINDER JHITTA

50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS RIGHT NOW!

47 COREY TAYLOR

SLIPKNOT /STONE SOUR

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 10▼

■ You know you're a bona fide rockstar when the two bands with whom you are most closely associated, Slipknot and Stone Sour, have done very little this past year, yet you still make the list. But when your busman's holiday sees you join the ranks of supergroup Kings Of Chaos, then you can be sure the air you breathe is rarified. Not just that, but these days Corey is a renaissance man, too, at least of sorts. 2016 saw the Iowan acquit himself capably on BBC Two's QI programme, not to mention the publication of his third book, You're Making Me Hate You. Expect our boy to catapult up the league when Slipknot or Stone Sour return to action. *(IW)*

46 JOHNNY STEVENS

HIGHLY SUSPECT

NEW ENTRY

■ For Johnny Stevens, artificiality is taboo. If some mad scientist were to custom-engineer rockstar perfection, however, their progeny would surely at least bear resemblance to the Highly Suspect frontman: strikingly handsome, unabashedly frank, and blessed with a gift for weaving personal darkness into effortlessly cool compositions. The Cape Cod native's early years might've been stained by abandonment, anxiety and substance abuse, but that history has fixed his feet firmly on the ground: the stature that's seen three GRAMMY nominations chalked-up in two years meeting only ever-louder chants of "MCID" (My Crew Is Dope), as he invites us all along for the ride. *(SL)*

45 TRENT REZNOR

NINE INCH NAILS

RE-ENTRY

■ When David Bowie passed away, Trent Reznor described how his friend and mentor helped pull him back from the brink of self-destruction. The two collaborated in the mid-'90s and, like the late Bowie, Reznor is an auteur who is driven to create a body of work that has frequently transcended genre boundaries. And with Nine Inch Nails having returned to action with the Not The Actual Events EP, one of rock's most enigmatic forces is proving he still has plenty more to say. *(PT)*

44 KEITH BUCKLEY

EVERY TIME I DIE

NEW ENTRY

■ Having ridden the untameable bull that is Every Time I Die for almost 20 years, this can't be overstated: Keith Buckley is a modern day rock icon. He's scraped, scrapped and screamed his way onto this list as a new entrant in 2017, however, because even with almost two decades under his belt, he's had to rise to a new level in recent times. Last year, he channelled unimaginable heartache into ETID's latest record, Low Teens, and created a masterpiece. To go through what Keith went through and manage to keep going is one thing; to come through it and release the best album of your career is the work of a true rockstar. *(RDF)*

Q&A

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE INTEGRAL INGREDIENT TO TRUE ROCKSTAR STATUS?

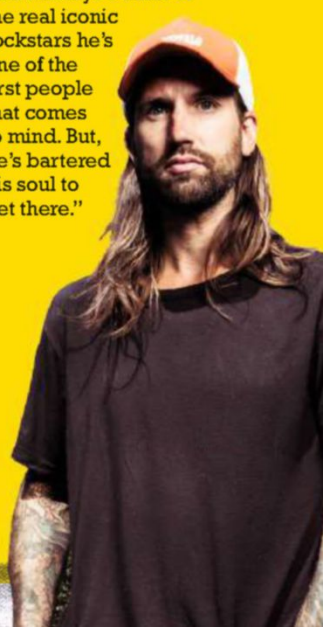
"Stupidity is the key thing, I think. You have to be willing to do the same thing over and over and over, see absolutely no results, and not let that stop you. The definition of madness is said to be doing the same thing over and again and expecting different results, but you just keep thinking, 'One more time and everyone will think I'm a *genius*!'"

DID YOU WANT TO BE A 'ROCKSTAR' WHEN YOU STARTED THE BAND?

"No, I *never* had the rockstar dream. I didn't want the girls, I didn't want the fame, I didn't want the money – what I wanted was to make a very select few cool kids think *I* was cool. And I'm pretty sure I'm not actually a rockstar, so I guess I managed to achieve my non-dream!"

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A ROCKSTAR WITHOUT INTEGRITY?

"I think to be *true* rockstar you *can't* have integrity! You have to compromise your soul at so many crossroads on the path to rock stardom, and the more you do that and the less integrity you have the quicker you'll achieve that fabled position. Look at Gene Simmons – he's accomplished so much, and when you think of the real iconic rockstars he's one of the first people that comes to mind. But, he's bartered his soul to get there."



THE RECORDS THAT MADE...

MATTIE VANT

VANT

NEW ENTRY

43

HE'S THE MODERN GRUNGE VOICE OF YOUNG BRITISH DISSENT. AND MAN, DOES HE LOVE THE PIXIES...

1. THE VINES, *HIGHLY EVOLVED*
(CAPITOL RECORDS, 2002)

"My first moment of discovery. Up until that point, music had been through my parents. My mum would play ABBA and Westlife and my dad loved Pink Floyd, Neil Young and Led Zeppelin. As much as I loved my dad's selections, when I heard The Vines they opened it all up for me. I was 10 years old. I loved the energy they put off and it made me want to play guitar and be in a band."

2. THE SUBWAYS, *YOUNG FOR ETERNITY* (INFECTIOUS, 2005)

"The first gig I went to. I'd only ever seen cover bands before, and we got to the venue four hours early, freezing our tits off outside. Billy Lunn [vocals] came out and chatted to us. It showed me that most of these people were just normal dudes, but onstage he was a rock God, top off, leaping into the crowd. Music felt achievable and afterwards I started a band called The Small Screen Light Show."

3. QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE, *SONGS FOR THE DEAF*
(INTERSCOPE, 2002)

"Josh Homme's honesty taught me a lot – he means every single thing he says. The day after the Paris terror attacks [in November 2015], we played the [O2 Forum Kentish Town] in London. The only way I could get on that stage after that happened was because every line in every song meant something. I sang Peace & Love in the soundcheck and I broke down."

4. THE CLASH, *COMBAT ROCK*
(CBS, 1982)

"I struggle when music is catchy but it doesn't make you feel anything. You can feel when it's real. The Clash had great, simple songs, but when you go deeper, you realise what they stood for. That's as close a mantra that we'll have. I want to use music to express my views. Every lyric has to matter."

5. NEIL YOUNG, *LIVE AT MASSEY HALL 1971* (REPRISE RECORDS, 1971)

"This is a great live record and it blew open the doors on Neil Young. I feel akin to him on philosophy – he's an old hippy who has a big dream. It's easy to feel hopeless in this world, or think there's nothing we can do to influence it. But we live in such a vital moment in history, that by completely ignoring it, you're part of the problem."

6. WEEZER, *THE BLUE ALBUM*
(GEFFEN, 1994)

"Weezer are nerds who like getting high, surfing and rocking out. This is about growing up in the most unpretentious way. It's about playing Dungeons & Dragons in a basement, rather than being a jock. I was always an outsider as a kid, but I was able to be the person I wanted to be."

7. PIXIES, *COME ON PILGRIM*
(4AD, 1987)

"When it comes to bands, the first record I hear is usually the one I fall in love with. Doolittle [1989] had all the hits, but Come On Pilgrim was so *raw*. I wanted VANT to sound like a cross between The Kinks and Pixies when I first started. The Pixies were so unique and instantaneous, and I wanted us to be like that."

8. PARQUET COURTS, *LIGHT UP GOLD* (DULL TOOLS, 2012)

"This reignited my love of rock music in 2012. I'd almost given up on music, in a way – I'd lost my band in the north-east and moved to Brighton. I was experimenting with folk and electronic music. When I heard Parquet Courts, it was like The Vines all over again. I remembered the reasons why I started making music in the first place."

MATTIE! That's not how to store vinyl!

WORDS: MATT ALLEN PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

42

MANUEL GAGNEUX

ZEAL & ARDOR

NEW ENTRY

■ For a band that only made their live debut this month, Zeal & Ardor have already caused a hell of a stir. The reason? Their unique fusion of African American slave spirituals, blues, and black metal. It's a combination that sounds outlandish but, by Beelzebub's goaty nipples, it works a treat. It's the brainchild of Swiss musician Manuel Gagneux, and with his fearless sense of invention there will no doubt be more wonderful weirdness to come. *(PT)*

50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS RIGHT NOW!

41 JASON AALON BUTLER

LETLIVE.

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 11▼

■ Though Jason might not rank as high in the echelons of rock stardom as in previous years, it's almost inconceivable to imagine any list of such luminaries without the letlive. leader standing proud among their numbers. Given that the world has only been torn further apart by hatred and horrors since the release of the band's fourth full-length, If I'm The Devil…, you can be assured he'll be one of the louder voices screaming for change as the war for compassion, equality and decency rages on. *(DS)*

40 MYLES KENNEDY

ALTER BRIDGE

RE-ENTRY

■ A one-time journeyman who took a golden voice and the persistence of a woodpecker all the way to the top. Even in a dressing room at London's O2 Arena, Myles still carries himself with the air of an everyman, a Clark Kent who come showtime becomes Superman. Proud of his old-fashioned rock credentials – Alter Bridge's status is the result of good music, hard work and persistent touring – and not interested at all in the ephemera of clickbait showbiz fame, this family man is proof positive that star power can come in all sizes and shapes. *(IW)*

Q&A WAS ROCK STARDOM EVER WHAT YOU SPECIFICALLY HUNGERED FOR?

"No, and to make a list like this is kinda mind-blowing! I started off just wanting to play music to some degree, and I set obtainable goals based on my upbringing, and I would have been happy being a guitar teacher. With each milestone I hit I would then set my sights on the next one, and once I achieved the dream of being a recording artist it became all about trying to maintain that, to keep making music."

HOW OFTEN DO YOU FEEL LIKE A ROCKSTAR?

"It's the stage that makes you feel like what you're doing is resonating with people, but when you leave it – at least for me – I never feel like a 'rockstar'. There are some people who do achieve something like that, and I think they savour it and want to be that 24/7, but that seems like a lot of work to me!"

TO YOU, WHAT IS A 'ROCKSTAR'?

"I think being a rockstar is all about having that charismatic, larger-than-life presence, and I think Steven Tyler of Aerosmith embodies that perfectly. Whether he's on or off the stage, you can't really take your eyes off him. I also think of David Lee Roth – when I was growing up and following bands he really was the quintessential rockstar."

39 SU-METAL

BABYMETAL

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 13▼

■ Having only turned 19 in December and fronting what is fast becoming one of the most rabidly-adored bands in the world, SU-METAL's youth has never diminished her rockstar status. In the past 12 months, she was front and centre when BABYMETAL headlined the SSE Arena, Wembley and a triumphant homecoming at the Tokyo Dome, and with second album Metal Resistance tearing up the charts pretty much everywhere, she continues to shine brightly. *(DS)*

Q&A HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE INCLUDED ONCE MORE IN K!'S LIST OF 50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS?

"I would have never thought I would be chosen, so I'm genuinely surprised! It's such a great honour and I feel very blessed! Thank you."

MOST OF THE PEOPLE CONSIDERED TRUE ROCKSTARS ARE A LOT OLDER THAN YOU – DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL SPECIAL?

"Compared to the true rockstars, I still have lots to learn. But I also think there are things that could only be achieved while I'm young, so I'm treasuring what I'm capable of doing, one thing at a time."

DOES IT FEEL GOOD TO INFLUENCE A GENERATION OF YOUNG GIRLS?

"I've been hearing that more girls who are around our age are following us and are taking an interest in metal. I feel very happy and honoured to hear this, and hope that they widen their interest to include a lot of different things."

WHO ARE THE GREATEST ROCKSTARS TO YOU, AND WHY DO YOU LOOK UP TO THEM?

"Metallica. Their aura and everything they do onstage is so brilliant. I always wish that one day I can be as incredible as them!"

38 PETE WENTZ

FALL OUT BOY

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 20▼

■ Everybody loves Pete Wentz. He's the driving force behind almost everything Fall Out Boy do, he's the reason we have Panic! At The Disco, and he's generally one of the coolest dudes in rock. The Chicago quartet have been on something of a break since they brought the fire to their Reading & Leeds co-headliner set last summer, and Pete's been using that time to hunt down hard-to-find flavours of ice cream, play in his 'Valley dad' softball league and become the Steven Spielberg of Snapchat (getting there, mate). Obviously we're hoping all that chilled-out stuff is just a ruse to cover up the fact FOB are working on a new album, and knowing that sneaky Pete, anything's possible… *(JJW)*

37 BEN WARD

ORANGE GOBLIN

NEW ENTRY

■ When publisher Team Rock (who produced Metal Hammer and Classic Rock magazines) collapsed last year, more than 70 journos and staff found themselves facing redundancy with no pay just before Christmas. The response was one that made you proud to be part of the rock community, as a JustGiving campaign that aimed to raise £20,000 ended up making £88,760. Thousands of people gave, but it was Orange Goblin's Ben Ward who started the fund and galvanised all that support. The band also played a benefit show, and this sense of commitment to the scene is typical from a man who's fronted one of the UK's most consistently riff-slinging bands for the past two decades. *(PT)*

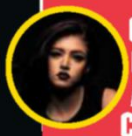
JUST MISSING THE CUT…

FIVE OF THE FACES ABSENT IN OUR 2017 LIST

GERARD WAY

■ If ever the power of MCR and their respective parts was in doubt, just look at the meltdown that accompanied their rumoured 'reunion' upon the teasing of a Black Parade reissue last year. Gerard has been far quieter of late than his former bandmates; a return to the spotlight will restore his spot in our list.

CHRISSY COSTANZA, AGAINST THE CURRENT



■ The leader of a band fashioned firmly in her own image, Chrissy has the spark, sass and songs to make her a fixture in our 50 for years to come – after she catches a breather on the bench for 2017.

JENNA McDOUGALL, TONIGHT ALIVE

■ A 2017 icon for a positive give-a-fuck-what-you-think-about-me attitude, Jenna's set to lead her charges back to the UK later this year, restoring her spot in the 50 for 2018 with it.

JOEL BIRCH, THE AMITY AFFLICTION

■ Quite literally No.51 in the Greatest Rockstars longlist, his omission in 2017 is about the only bullseye Joel's not hit recently. A 2018 lock-in to the point no bookie will take a bet on his future inclusion.

JARED LETO, 30 SECONDS TO MARS

■ Sure, The Joker could easily feature in our 'If Only They Rocked…' list over the page. But the man behind the Suicide Squad make-up? We'll swap you a return to the 50 for a new 30STM album, J-dog. Your move…

36 DANI WINTER-BATES

BURY TOMORROW

NEW ENTRY

■ Dani Winter-Bates is the proverbial real deal. Having dropped a career best with Earthbound, Southampton quintet Bury Tomorrow saw their profile grow dramatically in recent months, and a great deal of their success can be attributed to Dani, for both his visceral performances onstage and the integrity with which he conducts himself away from it. He openly voices his disdain for bands that take advantage of their followers, and makes it abundantly clear that he exists on the same level as Bury Tomorrow's fans, making him one of the most bullshit-free frontmen around right now. *(DS)*

Q&A **YOU'RE SOMETHING OF AN ANTI-ROCKSTAR, DANI. DID YOU EVER ASPIRE TO BEING THE 'CLASSIC' ROCKSTAR?**
"I think every kid starting out making music has some aspirations toward being in a massive band that tours around the world and earns lots of money. When you don't know the ins and outs of the industry, you have something of a blind innocence; you have this idea of what a 'rockstar' is, and that changes as you come to understand the reality of it. You realise very quickly that there are a lot more important things in the world than your ego, and if you always remember where you came from and the people who like your music are just like you, your appreciation of what you have increases."

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO CALL OUT BULLSHIT BEHAVIOUR BY OTHER BANDS...
"As I get older I pick my battles a little bit more! The ones I have the biggest problem with are those who exploit their fans, and the ones that grind me the most are those who act like they're *not*. If you're playing a 200-cap venue and charging those people to meet you, you need a reality check."

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A TRUE ROCKSTAR AND *NOT* BE A DICK?
"If the charisma is there then absolutely. Look at Jason Butler from letlive. – he has *so* much charisma, but he isn't a dick with it. He really understands the position he's in and has a very level head. In the end, as long as you're conscious of the position you're in, and you don't abuse it, you can totally be a non-dick rockstar."

35 MIKE DUCE

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS

RE-ENTRY

■ You could have been forgiven for writing off LTA's loudmouthed leader, as he'd begun to do so himself, while his peers achieved the goals he longed for. Thankfully, the man whose obsession with cultivating a musical legacy managed to conquer the demons impeding his talents and "destroying" the dreams of his bandmates. In doing so, Mike's got himself back on track. Despite telling K! he "doesn't need validation from anyone", the rave reviews new album Safe In Sound has received won't have hurt. *(JH)*

34 ASH COSTELLO

NEW YEARS DAY

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 22▼

■ While New Years Day fans could only pine for new music in 2016, Ash wasn't exactly sitting around. Alongside continuing to prove herself a true badass on the many stages around the world she graced, her side project The Haxans unleashed their debut EP, her Bat Royalty clothing label exploded, *and* the lifelong arachnophobe allowed K! to snap her with a tarantula on her face! With the follow-up to 2015's Malevolence *hopefully* due some time in 2017, it's a safe bet that this time next year Ash will be a serious challenger to any and all hoping to top this list. *(DS)*

33 DAVE GROHL

FOO FIGHTERS

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 7▼

■ Let's have it right: a rockstar list that doesn't contain the name Dave Grohl is as likely as a £20 that doesn't feature a likeness of the Queen. So, really, although the answer to the question 'What have you done for us lately?' might be 'not much', this is still Dave Grohl we're talking about here. As a Democrat of long-standing and a supporter of LGBTQ+ rights long before the cause was as mainstream as it is today, it might well be that the 48-year-old icon is presently laying low at home with a cold flannel pressed to his face. But when he returns, the stadiums of the UK will be ready. *(IW)*

32 VIC FUENTES

PIERCE THE VEIL

RE-ENTRY

■ There was one track in particular on 2016's Misadventures that reminded us why Vic Fuentes is such a unique rockstar. Song For Isabelle was a song written for a fan who was contemplating suicide. Along with Bulls In The Bronx (penned after Vic was sent the blog of a fan who took her own life) and I Don't Care If You're Contagious (written for someone whose boyfriend died in an accident) it proved Vic is there for his fans in the most personal way. *(JJW)*

Q&A **YOU'RE THE OPPOSITE OF THE 'TYPICAL' ROCKSTAR STEREOTYPE – DO YOU LIKE BEING PROOF THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A JERK TO BE A ROCKSTAR?**
"Have you ever met your favourite singer and had them be a complete asshole to you? Well, I have. Right then and there I promised myself I'd never be like that to a fan. Ever since my brother and I started playing in punk bands back in high school we always hated the idea of being 'rockstars'. We even wrote a song called I'd Rather Die Than Be Famous."

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY HAVE BEEN YOUR GREATEST ROCKSTAR MOMENTS?
"I once smashed my guitar in front of 50,000 people at Reading Festival! That was something I'd always dreamed of doing, and it felt just as amazing as I had hoped it would. That stupid guitar never sounded good anyway."

WHICH ROCKSTARS DO YOU MOST IDOLISE, AND WHY?
"Anyone who can do something that I can't do is a rockstar in my eyes. The electrician fixing my heater right now is a rockstar as far as I'm concerned! I would shock myself to death if I even *tried* to do what he's doing right now!"

31 WILL GOULD

CREEPER

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 8▼

■ Make no mistake about it, if this list was being drawn up even just a month later you'd probably be seeing Will Gould's name near the absolute top of it, as Creeper's debut record – Eternity, In Your Arms – drops in March. Will and his band have been steadily growing into one of the UK's most exciting outfits, but now after three stellar EPs, some of the greatest theatrics we've seen from a band since MCR hung up their instruments, and a bloody full-blown disappearance mystery, 2017 is the year we find out if they have what it takes to make good on all the hype and potential. Spoiler alert: it's looking like they will – and then some. *(RDF)*

TAKING A STAND WITH...

HALEY SHEA

SLØTFACE

NEW ENTRY

30

HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD, ONE POP-PUNK HOOK AT A TIME...

WORDS: SAM LAW **PHOTO:** ANDY FORD

Yes, you can take a stand and still have a sit down every now and then, okay?

Slotface brave the Førde protests for the Sponge State video

Heading to the hills to shoot a spectacular music video is vintage rockstar behaviour. Who could forget Metallica's I Disappear? Rammstein's Ohne Dich? The Darkness' Love Is Only A Feeling? We'd bet that none of those, however, were made with one-hundredth of the punk spontaneity Norway's Slotface conjured for 2016's Sponge State cut.

"Despite calls for more research, our government has given the okay for the Nordic Mining company to dump waste into Førde, one of Norway's most beautiful fjords," recalls Haley Shea, a frontwoman whose elfin features camouflage a ferocious intellect. "We got to talking, after a show in Oslo, about friends who were travelling to protest this, and people already there. We decided it'd be good to give their activism a different platform, to expose others to it."

After attending a lecture on the subject at the University of Bergen, it took only three days for the band to hit the road. "Like everything we do, it was probably a bit more spontaneous than it should've been," the singer admits. "You see us in the video, emailing our label and texting our parents to let them know we're driving 11 hours, taking ferries up Norway's west coast, through a snowstorm in the middle of the night to get to this fjord!"

Ingrained into Norwegian culture, of course, is a deep-rooted history of civil disobedience and conservationism. "It's not some hippy thing only a select group get involved in," explains Haley. "This could've been detrimental to the whole community. The whole community was involved. We arrived at about 4am and stayed with a local family. A farmer helped us lug our equipment up the icy mountain. Then we just played to these protestors – aged between 13 and 25 – chained to the drilling equipment in the ice and rain. These guys were being dragged away by police every day. Then they'd just come back the next day and do it all again.

"Everybody speaks about how our generation is so apathetic," she sighs. "How we just talk about stuff, how we just like and share stuff on social media. We wanted to show that these incredibly brave and active people are out there. We were in no way as brave or active as those activists. But we wanted people to be inspired by them, because we are inspired. We're the generation who're going to have to deal with these issues caused by [the ignorance of] generations gone before."

For Haley, the issue of gender equality finds her at her most outspoken. The feminist sensibility bleeding through tracks like Shave My Head and Bright Lights – the latter's music video a powerful indictment of rape culture victim-shaming – hits hard. "There's a feeling that, no matter how hard you work against it, all of your decisions are still all fuelled by your gender," she says. "We want a future where kids don't feel boxed in.

"To keep finding meaning is our number one goal. And to keep finding the fun in music. Music can be an important gateway to becoming active in the real world. We hope to build a community of young people who want to meet each other, maybe become friends for life to build things – or to protest what they don't agree with."

With all that said, has there been difficulty reconciling such steadfast views with that irresistible, easygoing sound? "We don't rationalise it!" she laughs. "We just love energy, movement, that sense of chaos and being alive. Just because you can sing along to something, doesn't mean it can't change the world."

IF ONLY THEY ROCKED...

TOP 50 CERTS – IF THEY WERE IN A BAND, THAT IS

ELEVEN

While Stranger Things' hero would be a disappointing interviewee, just think of her psychokinetic abilities if the mosh-pit got a bit rowdy. She could float people to safety. Or the bar, if they're parched. And her name is a total reference to Spinal Tap.

DEADPOOL

The disfigured antihero with an endless pool of one-liners would be the greatest frontman on the planet if he could sing. Just imagine the K! podcasts. Then imagine how much stuff would be unfit to use. Oh, Deadpool.

SHINSUKE NAKAMURA

He might just have the greatest entrance in professional wrestling, but have you *seen* his Kinshasa finishing move? It's all the power of a Slayer riff in one thank you-and-goodnight. Also: a Nightwish fan.

SHIA LABEOUF

Once famous for being Indiana Jones' son, Shia was recently arrested at the site of his anti-Trump art installation He Will Not Divide Us in New York. Why? For shoving a bellend who said 'Hitler did nothing wrong' on camera. Punk needs more Shia LaBeoufs.

KRISTEN STEWART

Simple, really. When she's not heading to LA's Emo Nite club, Lynn Gunn's mate is taking the piss out of Trump, who bizarrely tweeted 11 times about her romance with Robert Pattinson. Plus, she dated a vampire years ago. Pretty metal.

AT HOME WITH...

JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER

29

COUNTERFEIT

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 39▲

JAMES HINGLE CALLS IN FOR A SNOOP AROUND THE LIFE OF BRITISH ROCK'S NEXT SUPERSTAR

1 'TILL DEATH DO US PART'

"I got this from a store in New York called The Evolution Store – me and my missus found it together, and I just love it. I've always been very drawn and fascinated by death and the morbid, dark side of things. This is us when we die; this is how I want to be buried, side by side holding each other, in the same coffin – or suspended from London Bridge!"

2 TED HUGHES' CROW

"[Poet/writer] Ted Hughes came to our school when I was I about 15 and did a talk. I found his book, Crow, and it is the heaviest, darkest, most depressing collection of poems. What I love about poetry is that it is so short that the words have to have *such* an impact. The imagery is almost instant."

3 VIVIENNE WESTWOOD BOOK

"I love the idea of punk. I love anything that pushes the boundaries and I think if you really want to know about the punk movement and know about what it means to push those boundaries and where the fashion was coming from alongside the music, this is a very key book to go to. Obviously Vivienne is a really important woman in that sense. She turned the world on its arse."

4 LYRIC BOOK

"This is actually the first-ever lyric book that I made, and what is quite fucking weird about it is that the front of it says: 'Today European, Tomorrow Fallen Giants'. That seems to be weird – slightly prophetic in a way. It is a scrapbook of my life and what I'm thinking about. There's a page in here where I'm talking about giving my demos to people."

5 SWEENEY TODD BOOK

"This is from my first-ever movie that I did [2007's Sweeney Todd] – it's a scrapbook from the job. These are all pictures and stills from working with Tim [Burton, Director] for the first time. It was insane – I had never been on a film set before and I had no idea what the fuck I was doing!"

6 BLACK FLAG VINYL

"We are really fortunate enough to have incredible and dedicated fans across the world. These two girls flew over from America to England to follow us on tour, and they brought this record with them. Not only is it the fact that I love the band, but it was the fact they took the time to go to a record store to find this record and then *flew to England* and presented it to me in Nottingham. It absolutely fucking blew me away."

7 CRUCIFIX

"I struggle with the idea of faith a lot. I grew up in a family that was open to all faiths, but I still don't know what it means to have faith. I think the idea of belief is enough for me – believing in something else is a very comforting thought."

8 STAGE JACKET

"The message behind it – 'peace and freedom' – is very representative of the band and who we are as people. I think the reason we chose the title of our new record [Together We Are Stronger] was because, ultimately, having unity and having camaraderie with people is way more beneficial than locking yourself away."

9 GARLIC

"I've got this to ward off vampires. Garlic is a very important addition to any meal I make, too. Pasta sauce? Garlic. Chicken? Garlic. Chocolate cake? Garlic (*laughs*)."

10 MOVIE CHAIR BACK

"I got this from the set of [2011's] The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn. The profile of those movies was definitely important in pushing me out there. I still find it fascinating that people want to see something I've done. I always find it mental that someone would want to pay me for that."

11 GIBSON LES PAUL

"My pride and joy. I got this when I was 15 from my mum and dad. It's had three neck breaks, and, stupidly, still comes out on the road with me. We have this love affair, and I can't bring myself to play anything else."

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

28 LANDE HEKT

MUNCIE GIRLS

NEW ENTRY

■ Managing to stay down to earth while fronting one of the country's best bands can't be an easy task, but Lande Hekt manages it. In a list full of larger-than-life characters, attention-grabbing megastars, and firmly-established living legends, Lande is a unique prospect. She's included here because she's fucking awesome and doesn't even need an ego to go with it. Instead, she's simply grounded, honest, and supremely talented. Sometimes – just sometimes – that's all you ever really want from a rockstar. *(RDF)*

27 TAKA MORIUCHI

ONE OK ROCK

NEW ENTRY

■ Taka Moriuchi was born for superstardom. The son of legendary, multimillion-selling Japanese performers, it was only a matter of time before fame came calling. Global domination, however, is never a birthright. That's something Taka has earned. Sure, in his homeland playing to tens of thousands at a time is already a matter of course. But Japan was never going to be enough, and Taka is closer than ever to realising his desire for worldwide recognition. *(SL)*

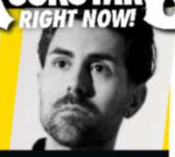
Q&A

DO YOU FEEL LIKE ONE OK ROCK COULD BE THE BIGGEST BAND IN THE WORLD?
"We already think we're the best. But what really matters is what everyone else thinks when they listen to us. So let's find out! Ambition is what [has come to] define us!"

HOW DOES IT FEEL, FINALLY, TO BE BREAKING THROUGH IN THE UK AND U.S.?
"It feels a little late, to be honest! We started to look overseas in 2014, and 2015; going to Asia, then to Europe, then to the U.S.. But right now it feels like the point when we're really getting out to tour the world. To be releasing [new album] Ambitions through Fueled By Ramen feels like the culmination of many steps forward…"

STILL, THERE'S GOT TO BE AT LEAST SOME HARD-EARNED SATISFACTION?
"Not yet. There are an awful lot of things we're out to accomplish. We want, when someone hears the name ONE OK ROCK, for them to be able [to immediately recognise] us as 'that great Japanese band'. Right now, it feels as if we've reached the starting line for that!"

26 DAVEY HAVOK



AFI

RE-ENTRY

■ Few rockstars can say they've been at the top of their game for 25 years. Fewer still can release one of the best albums of their career at that considerable landmark. Davey Havok, however, isn't like other rockstars. An outspoken advocate for the straight-edge lifestyle, the only thing he's addicted to is work. As well as shepherding AFI's 5K-rated self-titled 10th album into the world, he fronts XTRMST and Blaqk Audio (both with AFI guitarist Jade Puget), as well as mysterious project Dreamcar (alongside all of the members of No Doubt not named Gwen Stefani). While Davey's frenetic live performances mean he's in your face, his oblique lyrics make him an endlessly fascinating figure. *(JH)*

25 TAYLOR MOMSEN

THE PRETTY RECKLESS

RE-ENTRY

■ The life of Taylor Momsen has shown that she can turn her hand to anything. Except, she was never playing the role of being a rockstar – she *is* a rockstar. All bluesy, soulful, classic rock, inspired by everything from David Bowie to Soundgarden, 2016's Who You Selling For saw Taylor sing of selling her soul to the Devil and hinted she has no blood, just liquid rock coursing through her veins. *(JJW)*

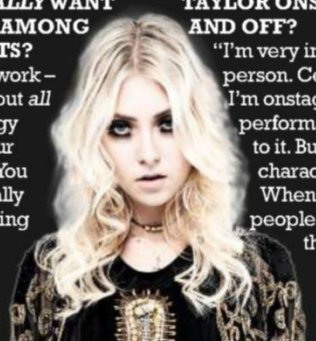
Q&A

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES THE TRUE ROCK GIANTS OF THE '60S AND '70S SO SPECIAL TO YOU?
"That they basically *invented* it helps! I don't trust a musician who doesn't love The Beatles, and I'm not sure you can *be* a real musician without a love for them!"

HOW MUCH WORK DO YOU HAVE TO PUT IN IF YOU *REALLY* WANT TO STAND AMONG THE GREATS?
"It's not just work – you have to put *all* of your energy and *all* of your spirit into it. You have to literally give everything up for it."

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU KNEW YOU WANTED TO BE A ROCKSTAR?
"I never actually thought that exactly, I just knew I wanted to write music and sing. When I started writing it became like a form of therapy, and my notebook became my best friend."

IS THERE MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TAYLOR ONSTAGE AND OFF?
"I'm very introverted as a person. Certainly when I'm onstage there's a performance element to it. But, there's no character involved. When I'm up there people are seeing the real *me*."



SAM McTRUSTY 24

TWIN ATLANTIC

NEW ENTRY

■ Prowling the stage for Twin Atlantic's hat-trick of shows at Glasgow's Barrowland at the end of last year, Sam McTrusty looked like a musician totally transformed. The mohawk. Tripping, autobiographical lyrics that declared '*I take pills, and I drink alcohol.*' A swagger that seemed unstoppable. Fourth album GLA, he declared, was not a departure, but an arrival. Sure, Sam and his bandmates had long since conquered the airwaves and played some of the country's biggest rooms. But it was in proving their ability to do it on their own, hard-rocking terms that signalled a readiness, finally, to go supernova. *(SL)*

SIMON NEIL 23

BIFFY CLYRO

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 16▼

■ Biffy Clyro's leader was very nearly undone by his own lofty ambitions. The man dubbed 'sexy Jesus' discovered he couldn't walk on water when he suffered "a tizzy" towards the end of touring 2013's double opus Opposites. Bloodied but unbowed, he dusted himself off, decamped to LA and wrote its leaner, more lyrically direct follow-up, Ellipsis. The result was an album that's simultaneously accessible (Re-arrange) and acerbic (On A Bang); garnering rave reviews, a return to arenas and a re-conquering of Reading & Leeds Festivals, only three years after delivering a headline set widely considered one of the finest in its history. *That's* how you get back on your feet. 'Mon the Si! *(JH)*

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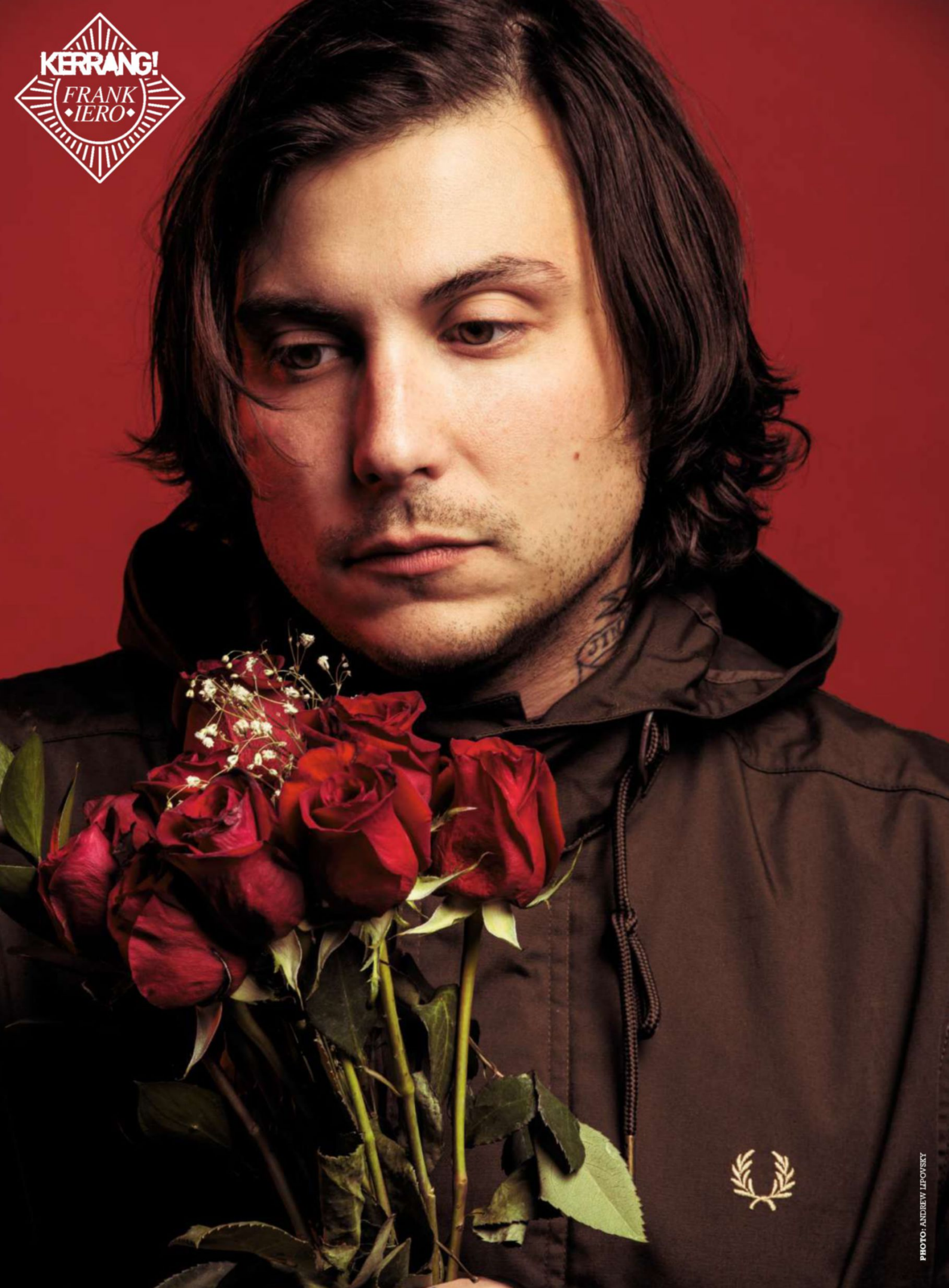

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

PHOTO: ANDY FORD

KERRANG!
LOWER THAN ATLANTIS

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

fall out boy
10
YEARS OF
INFINITY ON
HIGH
BE FREE
KERRANG!

KERRANG!

KELLIN QUINN & MACHINE GUN KELLY

PHOTO: ANTHONY GAFFINE

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

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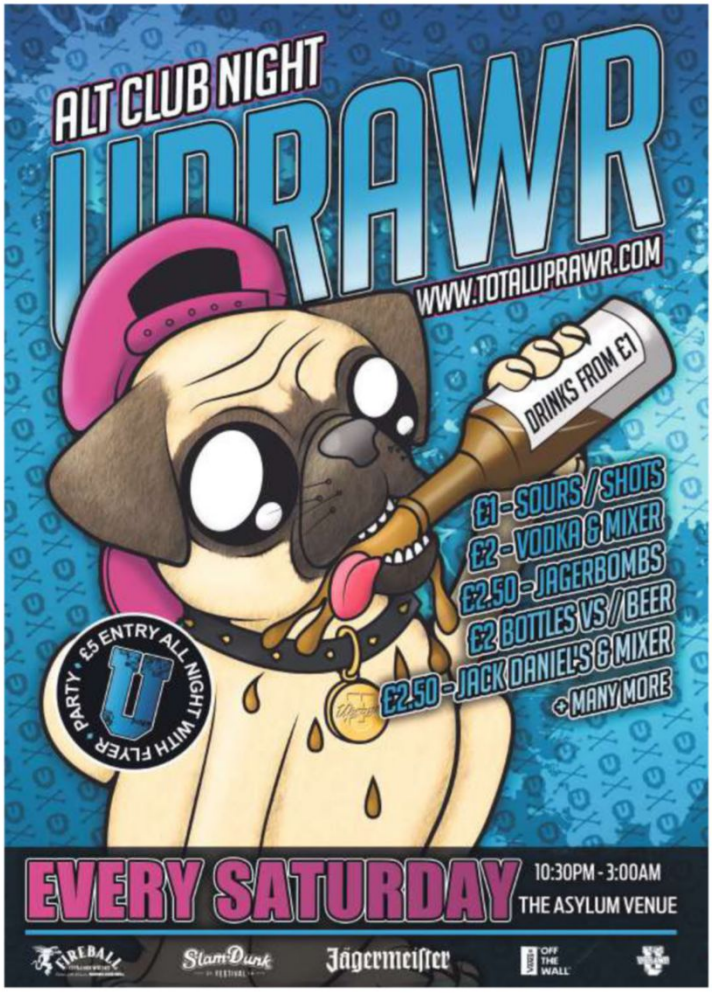

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22 COLE BECKER

SWMRS

NEW ENTRY

■ Between leading SWMRS to glory in 2016, managing to stand out as the star of a band full of them, and the endless amount of awesome projects he's involved with in his hometown of Oakland, CA – his 'zine is a must-read, FYI – it's no wonder Cole is making his debut in this list. Oh, and he's managed to pull it all off while still attending college. Imagine what he'll be able to do once he graduates. *(RDF)*

Q&A HOW IMPORTANT HAS THE OAKLAND SCENE BEEN FOR YOU?

"The East Bay has always been a community of music, it's very DIY, and growing up seeing that that was how things are done and how you can achieve what you want has been inspiring. We feel so lucky to be a part of that community, and we've always wanted to be able to put back into it."

DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE WHO ACHIEVE 'ROCK STARDOM' TO USE THEIR VOICE TO AFFECT CHANGE?

"I think people are stupid if they're *not* talking about what's going on. The world is so fucked up, if you're *not* doing anything to fix it then you're just a part of the problem. It's also important to speak out against the strictures that we've benefitted from – because we're straight, fixed gendered, mostly white men, the pathway for us to become professional musicians was easier than for any other demographic. First, that has to be acknowledged, and then you have to do your part to help level the playing field."

DO YOU THINK IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT THAT YOU DON'T GET SO SERIOUS THAT YOU FORGET TO HAVE FUN WITH WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

"Absolutely. One of the reasons we're so outspoken is that we want to make it so that everyone can have as much fun as we do. Making music is an amazing way of getting in touch with yourself and with other people, and it's such an important tool for people coping and needing somewhere to go, and lifting someone's spirits can be life-changing."

21 LYNN GUNN

PVRIS

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 1▼

■ Last year's winner might have slipped 20 places, but it's only because she's been away scheming up new music. Despite being off frequenting haunted houses to make PVRIS' forthcoming album even more ghostly than the last, Lynn has remained prevalent online, speaking out about important issues and raising money for causes such as the Orlando nightclub shooting. For someone so outspoken, Lynn is also massively introverted, which is perhaps where her rockstar appeal lies – she's one mysterious and intriguing human. Watch out, 2018: once PVRIS' ridiculously-anticipated second record is out, Lynn will be back to reclaim her No.1 spot. *(JJW)*

20 TOM MORELLO

PROPHETS OF RAGE

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 25▲

■ Seeing as Rage Against The Machine predicted that Donald J. Trump would become a politician at the end of the last century, it seems only right that this most righteous of rockers remains on hand to fight the power today. The most distinctive American guitarist of his generation, of late the 52-year-old slinger has been expressing his disavowal of America's lurch to the right as a member of Prophets Of Rage. In an age when political music – as opposed to mere political rhetoric – is at a premium, Tom Morello remains a leader of the opposition. *(IW)*

19 REBA MEYERS

CODE ORANGE

NEW ENTRY

■ Don't ever refer to Reba Meyers as just 'the girl in the band'. As guitarist/vocalist for Code Orange, she is, of course, the force at the centre of one of hardcore's fiercest modern outfits. And, alongside Oathbreaker's Caro Tanghe, she's at the head of a pack of ferocious females helping to drag hardcore from its testosterone-oriented past into a bold future. But her near-militant objection to being singled-out for XX chromosomes alone speaks volumes about the artist inside. If she can inspire the next generation of women to step up, that's all well and good. But her singular focus is only on unleashing the most mind-expandingly heavy, uncompromising sound you'll hear. And in third album Forever, she's done just that. *(SL)*

MATT HEALY 18

THE 1975

NEW ENTRY

■ Along with the talent to craft a decent tune, the ability to divide opinion should be a prerequisite for rockstar status. On both counts, the tousled mop at the centre of The 1975's neon world passes with flying technicolours. Genius? Pretentious? 'Sexually confused Edward Scissorhands' (his words)? Whatever your opinion, there's no denying that Matt and his band have brought colourful rock firmly back to the dance-floor. With a big mouth and even bigger ambitions, Matt has fully embodied his wild tales of white powder romances and fame's ridiculous extremes. *(JMK)*

AWSTEN KNIGHT 17

WATERPARKS

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 42▲

■ Flying up the ranks in 2017, the past 12 months has seen Awsten Knight leading his band through their biggest year yet. Not only did Waterparks release a debut record, Double Dare, to set them up well for future superstardom in the second half of last year, but Awsten's unique combination of an increasingly bold attitude and unparalleled ambition has seen him growing into a must-see frontman. Smart, funny and refreshingly honest, the cult of personality building around Awsten is only just finding its feet. *(RDF)*

Q&A HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING A 'ROCKSTAR', AWSTEN?

"It's weird, and I kinda don't feel like one, but it's pretty cool. I've got some of it down: I can dye my hair however I want any time I want, and I can do phone interviews while naked having just stepped out of the shower – and that's pretty rockstar, right? I never wanted to be the typical clichéd 'Oh yeah, I'm a *rockstar*, dude!' but I always wanted to be very successful with music, so if people think I'm a rockstar in that sense that's cool."

ON THE MARCH ALONGSIDE...

Rou takes to the streets of London last month

ROU REYNOLDS

ENTER SHIKARI

16

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 33▲

DARK TIMES SHINE A LIGHT ON THE NEED FOR BRITISH ROCK'S POLITICAL CONSCIENCE, SAYS JAMES HICKIE

On Monday, January 30, tens of thousands took to the streets of London to peacefully protest President Trump's appalling 'Muslim ban' and British PM Theresa May's refusal to condemn it. Among them was Rou Reynolds, who having headlined London's Alexandra Palace in support of Enter Shikari's fourth album, The Mindsweep – widely considered one of the best live shows of 2016 – is used to expressing himself in the face of large crowds.

To the man who represents the political conscience of British rock, the demonstration distilled everything he holds dear. Firstly, it was a chance for "all these people, from every conceivable walk of life, to come together behind a common cause" (namely, the fight against what Rou describes as "the tumultuous shit going on in the world right now"). Furthermore, it was an opportunity to experience the "carnival atmosphere" created by the array of creative, humorous expression on offer, with Rou chuckling as he recalls his favourite placard, emblazoned with the words: 'TRUMP IS A BLOODCLART.'

Walking home later, Rou noted a number of dejected protesters wondering what such a display had achieved. It's a question he might have asked himself in the days when the St Albans quartet were called Hybryd and the frontman wrote "meaningless things that were more about phonetics and how it sounded".

"Even though it took us a long time to get anywhere on a national level, we had a bit of a name just around Hertfordshire," Rou continues, "which even then made us want to add our voice to causes that we thought were relevant."

This year marks a decade since the release of Enter Shikari's debut Take To The Skies, an album that put the principle of voicing important issues into practice through songs like OK Time For Plan B, which suggests, *'We try to communicate / We've got no patience / Let's reclaim this throne / Why should we negotiate / Let's finish this now'*. Rou has recently started listening back to the record in preparation for their 'Ten Year Celebration' performances, which include shows at Slam Dunk Festival. It's an experience that's largely brought about a sense of pride.

Rou: glad he chose a hat and hoodie alongside love

> **"THE WORLD IS GETTING EXPONENTIALLY SHITTER"**
> **ROU REYNOLDS**

Such messages are set to be captured in Dear Future Historians – The Lyrics & Exegesis Of Rou Reynolds For The Music Of Enter Shikari, a limited-edition book showcasing Rou's lyrics from Take To The Skies to last year's Hoodwinker single, alongside essays and photography.

So was it important for a band with so much going on, sonically, to remind people of the message?

"If people like the music, it's like they're getting an amazing dinner," he suggests. "But if people get into the lyrics, and they inspire them to fight for a cause or research something, then that's the dessert – and I'm definitely a sweet tooth."

With the book having drawn a line under the band's efforts to date, what can we expect from their fifth album, and how do you successfully capture a world "getting exponentially shitter", as Rou says?

"I started writing last summer, but so much has happened that I've had to go through so many sounds and lyrical themes to keep up with a world that's moving so fast. As things have been changing around me, the atmosphere of the music has been changing, and now it feels there are lots of different routes we could go down."

While the new fruits of Rou putting motormouth to microphone remain to be heard, the idea of aspiring activists – including other musicians – emulating those putting feet to pavement at the London protests, he's full of hope.

"It's great to see so many people becoming so outspoken," he enthuses. "There have been points when it began to feel a bit lonely, considering art is supposed to be a bastion of progression. Social involvement has come down to the very core of morals; do you believe that we're one species on one planet striving for the same thing? Or do you believe in selfishness and making a quick buck?"

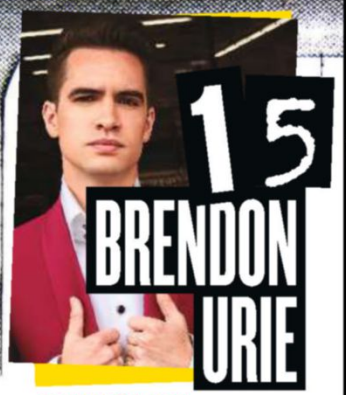
If you're the former, you're on the side of rock's feistiest firebrand. If, however, you're the latter, you can yabba-dabba-do one, son…

DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU DON'T LET YOUR EGO RUN AWAY WITH ITSELF?
"Yeah, you definitely shouldn't start thinking that you're *better* than your fans. I've loved bands before and then met their singers only to think, 'Whoa, that dude's a *piece of shit!*' It makes you think about the band and the music they make differently, and it can ruin your favourite songs. I think the trick is to not buy into your own hype. It also helps that I never wanted to be a piece of shit in general."

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED MANY '*THIS* IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE A ROCKSTAR' MOMENTS?
"Yeah, performing with Good Charlotte at Reading & Leeds in front of so many people. That definitely had a pretty good rockstar feeling! I'm getting recognised in random places a lot more, too. It's flattering, but when people are looking at me I never know if it's because they recognise me, or I've got some shit on my face."

WHO ARE THE ROCKSTARS YOU LOOKED UP TO WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?
"Sum 41, Green Day, Good Charlotte and blink-182. I loved how they had that larger-than-life appearance, and still do. And they weren't assholes, which helped."

PHOTOS: JORDAN CURTIS HUGHES



15 BRENDON URIE

PANIC! AT THE DISCO

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 12▼

■ Brendon Urie might not see himself as a rockstar, but the rest of the world certainly does. Especially since last year, when Death Of A Bachelor allowed the frontman to achieve things he'd never before dreamed, like headlining Slam Dunk, playing two nights at London's Alexandra Palace, and even editing Kerrang!. In January he proved that rockstars are indeed human when he posted about the panic attack he suffered after being mobbed at an airport. And that's the thing about Brendon – he's always open, always honest and always one of the realest dudes we know. *(JJW)*

14 FRANK CARTER

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 17▲

■ The reinvention of Frank Carter from rabid rottweiler to the Wolf in Gucci clothing has been one of the most fascinating transformations of recent years – physically, mentally and creatively, with the 4K-rated Modern Ruin bridging the gap between the vital fury of Gallows and Pure Love's melodic risk-taking. Altogether, Frank's passion and determination is a vibrant tonic for an increasingly grey Britain. Only one question remains for Britain's most electrifying punk frontman: what will the next stage in his metamorphosis bring? *(JMK)*

13 THE GOSPEL OF...

CARO TANGHE

OATHBREAKER

NEW ENTRY

THE MOST FEROCIOUS FORCE IN METAL SHARES THE BLUEPRINT FOR SETTING THE WORLD ABLAZE...

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MUSIC, START EARLY

"My dad was a DJ. He had a lot of records, particularly new wave ones, so he passed a lot of music on to me. My mum was a dancer. When I was very little, she brought me to dancing classes. From age five until about 18, I would do gymnastics and dance competitions. The first time I got in touch with 'hard' music was when I was about 13. Some of my friends started a hardcore band, so I'd hang out at their rehearsals, listening to bands like Hatebreed and Madball. It was then that I grabbed the mic and just started screaming, and realised I didn't find it too hard to do. I soon started my first band, and Oathbreaker is essentially that same band with two different members."

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **PHOTO:** JAMES SHARROCK

17 KIRK HAMMETT

METALLICA

RE-ENTRY

■ Losing a phone with all your riffs recorded on it, meaning you end up writing nothing but solos for the new Metallica record, is a boom-boom. It's a cock-up. But though ol' Hamster should be in the corner, dunce's hat firmly in place, something else has happened to him recently that's made him leapfrog Papa Het and Lars as the coolest member of Metallica. The usually-quiet shredder has come out swinging against Donald Trump, the alt-right and other wrong-cocks on Twitter. Righteous stuff, even if, as we saw when we were with him last, nobody has ever eaten an apple more slowly. *(NR)*

Q&A

WHICH OF THE ALL-TIME GREAT ROCKSTARS HAS HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON YOU?

"Lemmy was a huge influence. Musically, attitude-wise, mentally, in terms of believing in your own truth. 'I'm going to be me and that's all you're getting.' And that's all we needed – all we needed was Lemmy being Lemmy."

DOES THE LEGACY YOU'LL LEAVE BEHIND CONCERN YOU AS YOU GET OLDER?

"I'm choosing not to think about our legacy until after we're done. To me, legacies are post-event. It's something that happens after someone's time. As long as we try to do the best fucking thing as we possibly can, the legacy will take care of itself."

AT 54 YEARS OLD, WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED?

"I just want to keep on playing guitar. I get bored when we're not touring, when we're not recording and we don't have anything on the books. I play my guitar at home. And I surf and I watch horror movies. Then I think, 'I'm the luckiest guy in the world.' I get to fucking do what I do best and why would anyone want to stop doing that?"

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM UNLIKELY PLACES

"From 13 to 18, I listened to hardcore and punk-rock before moving on to more metal-infused bands. When I was younger, I remember my mum being really into PJ Harvey. I didn't listen to that or Portishead, Sonic Youth and Cocteau Twins until I was about 20 because I thought, 'That's too pop!' Finding that music, and saying goodbye to some of the harder stuff, led to what I'm doing now with Oathbreaker. I still listen to hardcore music, but it doesn't interest me as much anymore. Touring in a heavy environment means that when I get home I'd rather listen to something that will calm me down rather than hyping me up."

NEVER MAKE THINGS EASY

"We've been doing it for so long. I've been doing this for nine years, and I'm only 26. A lot of things happen in a period of time like that, so the band has marked every evolution that I've been through. That's obviously been reflected in what we've done as Oathbreaker. You can hear that our demo was a lot more basic and metalcore-ish, but our records now are the sound of us pushing ourselves. I like being triggered to try new stuff, and [Oathbreaker's third album] Rheia is the first time I've been satisfied with how far we took things."

DON'T ASSUME YOU'RE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

"It's not like going to an office and sitting behind a computer. I used to be a visual designer, and I work as a freelancer sometimes, but I've obviously had to put a halt on that to do this. Before we released Rheia, we'd never done more than 20 days of touring. Having done this so long, I don't see it coming to an end in the next year. I'm not ready to stop this yet, as I don't think we've done everything there is to do."

BEING STILL CAN BE AS INTENSE AS RUNNING AROUND

"I used to see all these hardcore bands with guys up onstage going crazy and doing all the things you're meant to be doing. I *tried* that, but it felt very un-me and not comfortable at all. While I loved seeing bands having sing-alongs and people going crazy watching them, it soon became clear to me that Oathbreaker was never going to be a band like that, so I felt more comfortable realising I didn't have to worry about those things and could just stand in front of the microphone."

TURN CRISIS INTO CATHARSIS

"After [second album] Eros/Anteros, I had a bit of a personal crisis. Most of it came from me not being very communicative and not having a good connection with my parents. I went to a psychologist but it didn't work out, so I told [Oathbreaker bandmate] Gilles stuff I'd never told anyone before. He told me to write all of it down and perhaps we'd use it for lyrics one day, so I did. I lost my grandmother so I wrote about that, and about my father being an alcoholic. That's where the lyrics for Rheia came from."

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MAKING PEOPLE FEEL AWKWARD

"When you're a singer, you don't have to set up gear, so there's no way of getting yourself emotionally ready to play, besides warming up – but I don't do that. The lyrics on Rheia definitely help me with that. Once the first song 10:56 starts off with me singing, I hit the vibe because that little piece is the most personal thing I've ever written or said to anyone. It's super-uncomfortable for those hearing that, but that's what I like about it."

12 LIV BRUCE / BEN HOPKINS

PWR BTTM

NEW ENTRY

■ Rock history is filled with dynamic duos, but even so, Liv Bruce and Ben Hopkins stand on their own. Fighting ignorance with indie-punk, PWR BTTM's existence is subversive in itself, with self-expression at the core of Ugly Cherries' genre-fluid excellence. But it is their activities promoting LGBTQ+ causes that puts them on another level. PWR BTTM are a force for freedom *and* fun. Remember fun? *(JMK)*

Q&A COMING FROM A PUNK-ROCK BACKGROUND, IS THE TERM 'ROCKSTAR' ANATHEMA TO YOU OR DO YOU ENJOY THE TAG?

LIV BRUCE *(DRUMS/VOCALS/GUITAR)*: "A little bit of both. I don't think I self-identify as a rockstar, but I find it very complimentary to be called one by Kerrang!. I also get to share the honour 50/50 with Ben [Hopkins], because all of our rockstar-ness happens in tandem."

PROMOTING LGBTQ+ ISSUES IS A BIG PART OF WHAT PWR BTTM ARE ABOUT – COULD YOU IMAGINE A MUSIC CAREER WITHOUT THAT BEING A FACTOR?

"I can totally imagine having a depoliticised music career, but it's not interesting to me. Musicians are in the business of creating these spaces of intense inspiration and excitement, and that feeling that we create is an important first step toward any kind of political action. If we're driving around, creating these spaces for a living, then why not try to figure out how to give people a way to channel that into something meaningful in their community?"

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT YOU ENSURE PEOPLE ARE HAVING FUN THROUGH THE MUSIC YOU MAKE?

"It's *so* important. Nothing else works if we don't take care of that basic need, because it's a terrific way to open someone's mind to other ways of seeing the world. That isn't to say it should always be that way, and there are some conversations that can't be fun, and that's okay – that's a huge part of any consciousness raising."

10 STEVE HARRIS

IRON MAIDEN

RE-ENTRY

■ Download, 2016. It is raining. Like, fucking raining. Arks were built for less trying conditions. And then Steve Harris appeared. He didn't stop the rain, but his mere presence, foot on the monitor, mouthing every word, valiantly driving the Maiden machine, lifted our sodden spirits like the sight of a fleet of battleships hoving into view. And at 60 years old, 42 years after he first started the band, Arry's backbone remains an iron girder that could support a motorway bridge. Which, in a world going increasingly mad and beset with maniacs and fake news, makes the man's honesty and believability an even more valuable commodity. *(NR)*

9 HAYLEY WILLIAMS

PARAMORE

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 6▼

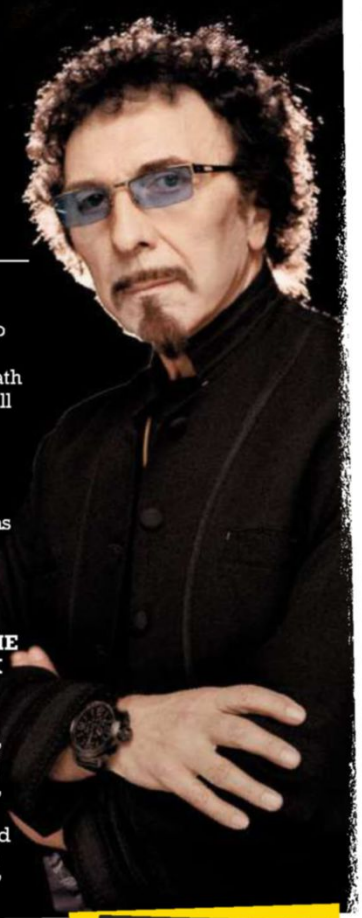
■ Hayley Williams might have slipped three places since last year's 50 Greatest Rockstars In The World Today issue, but only because she spent 2016 holed up working on album number five (WHICH NEEDS TO COME OUT SOON. WE CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE) and doing massive life stuff, like getting married to New Found Glory's Chad Gilbert and starting her own hair dye company, goodDYEyoung. But, even when the singer is totally off the radar and at home playing with her dog Alf, she's still a huge inspiration to fans. Whether it's through her tweets (often funny, always uplifting), her quirky 'fashun', her sassy business-minded streak, or the last four albums' worth of superb Paramore material, she's always a few clicks of an iPhone screen away, just making us want to be a better person. Thanks, Hayley! *(JJW)*

TONY IOMMI

BLACK SABBATH

8

RE-ENTRY



■ As if you need it spelling out. As if everyone else on this list doesn't have something beyond respect for The Greatest Guitarist In The World, and the people higher up don't feel a little awkward about being above him. Tony Iommi invented heavy metal, yeah? And, as he and Sabbath bowed out one final time this month, he proved that he still has heavier riffs than anyone else in the world. *(NR)*

Q&A **HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN PEOPLE CALL YOU A LEGEND?**
"It's very flattering, but I try not to think too much of it. I think it's great when people say that we've inspired them, or helped them, though. That's nice."

WHAT'S BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PAST 49 YEARS FOR YOU?
"Way back to the early days where we played Madison Square Garden. That was an amazing trip to us because you'd always hear about Madison Square Garden, and for us to play there was fabulous. But we've done so many things that have been monumental."

YOU'VE JUST TAKEN THE FINAL BOW ON BLACK SABBATH'S CAREER. HOW DO YOU FEEL?
"I'm going to miss it very, very much. I love playing with the guys and it's sad, but I'm hoping at some point we might do the odd few things. Whatever that might be, I don't know…"

REINVEN

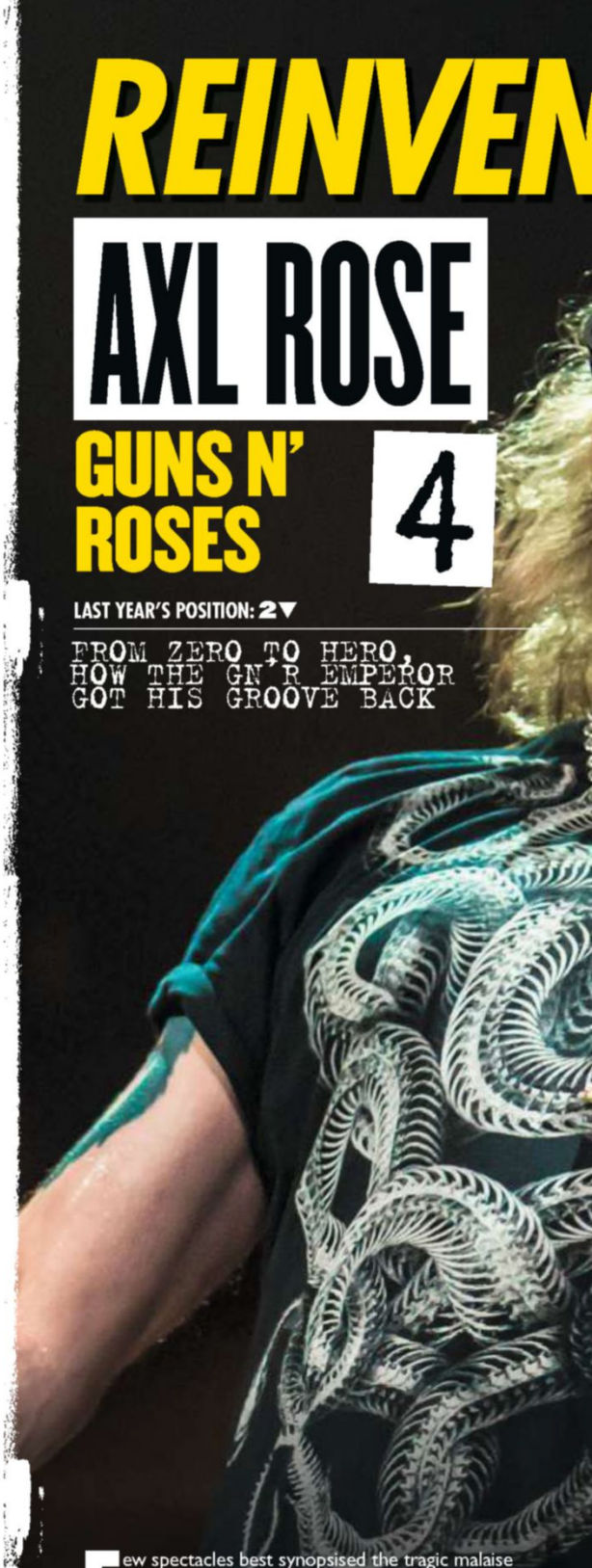
AXL ROSE

GUNS N' ROSES

4

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 2▼

FROM ZERO TO HERO, HOW THE GN'R EMPEROR GOT HIS GROOVE BACK



Few spectacles best synopsised the tragic malaise into which W. Axl Rose had descended as his appearance at The O2, Dublin in September 2010. Arriving onstage at 10:25pm, two hours later than advertised, even before Guns N' Roses – at this point a touring party of the singer and a rag-bag of hired help – had opened the lid on Welcome To The Jungle, the night's second song, the Irish crowd were booing. With bottles raining onto the stage, the band didn't even make it to the end of the number before their leader decided that his night's work was done.

You might call it an appetite for immolation. Even as recently as *this time last year* it seemed as if Axl Rose's reputation was beyond redemption. With a rap sheet that features incitement to riot, late appearances onstage, enough grandly erratic behaviour to fill two books and an album, Chinese Democracy, that arrived on the shelves almost a decade after it was supposed to, the funeral pyre of Axl Rose's professional standing serves as one of the more startling cautionary tales

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD **PHOTO:** XPOSURE

7

FRANK IERO

FRANK IERO AND THE PATIENCE/ DEATH SPELLS

RE-ENTRY

■ We thought we couldn't love Frank any more. We were wrong. Not content with dropping Death Spells' searing digicore debut last July, the ex-MCR man went one better only three months later: metamorphosing The Cellabration into The Patience and unleashing – in the 5K-rated Parachutes – one of the rawest and downright best albums of 2016. Running perilously close to tragedy, the October bus crash that sent Frank and his crew to hospital in Sydney could've derailed this latest resurgence. Instead, it's galvanised him. Frank is a survivor; an inspiration. If punk-rock is, indeed, about saying and playing what you want, then there's nary an artist in existence with more of its essence running through their veins. *(SL)*

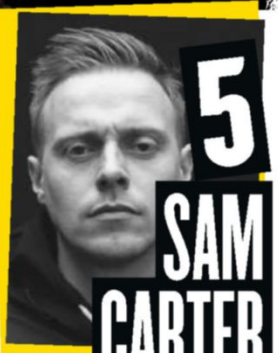
M. SHADOWS

AVENGED SEVENFOLD

6

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 48▲

■ When Avenged Sevenfold unveiled The Stage, their seventh studio album, in the autumn of last year, they did so with not a second's advance warning. After the world marvelled at this level of chutzpah, vocalist M. Shadows fronted the group on a tour of the UK's largest arenas. A rockstar in the old-school sense of the term, M. is a stand-alone singer, a crowd-rouser charged with working the room while his band of musicians make merry hell behind him. In his home country, this makes the 35-year-old the rarest of breeds: a homegrown frontman of an arena metal band, and one of the true keepers of the faith of metal in America. *(IW)*



5

SAM CARTER

ARCHITECTS

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 34▲

■ Sam's jump in this list – and the fact he's the highest-placed Brit – is a bittersweet affair. The career-best triumph of Architects' All Our Gods Have Abandoned Us was followed by tragedy with the death of guitarist Tom Searle last August. That Sam could lead the band to deliver a sublime milestone show at the O2 Academy Brixton three months later is testament to his belief in what he's doing and the wish to fulfil the legacy of his much-missed bandmate. For Sam, there was no better way to do that than to wrap the best metal vocals in the UK around Tom's potent lyrics. That he's done so while continuing to campaign for the causes he holds dear, including the work of Sea Shepherd, highlights the considerable measure of the man. *(JH)*

ITING...

in the history of rock music. Much more remarkable, though, is the speed with which the reputation of this rockstar *nonpareil* has been restored with full honours over the course of the summer and autumn of last year. And all it took for Axl Rose to go from laughing stock to genuine superstar in the present tense was for him to once again *just do his damn job.*

Last year, the 55-year-old livewire toured Europe with AC/DC and the United States with a for-the-most-part-reformed Guns N' Roses and not once did he arrive onstage late (even with, at those earliest reunion shows, a broken foot). When it came to the band with whom the frontman made his name, disbelieving eyes witnessed GN'R's tour of the largest stadiums in the U.S. and reported back that the frontman anchored the show with the kind of committed venom that recalled the incendiary brilliance of his celebrated youth. Such was the strength of this word of mouth that two concerts at the London Stadium in June all-but sold out in just hours.

Welcome home, Axl Rose.

3 TYLER JOSEPH/ JOSH DUN

TWENTY ONE PILOTS

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 14▲

■ Nobody had a bigger 2016 than twenty one pilots. Tyler Joseph and Josh Dun took their mesmerising Emøtiønal Røadshøw tour worldwide, appeared on the soundtrack for blockbuster movie Suicide Squad, got nominated for *five* GRAMMYs and ended the year as *the* most streamed band on Spotify. With pretty much half the world obsessing over their tunes, the pair have become icons, and due to their relentless touring schedule, totally inseparable, hence them appearing as one entry in this list. That, and the fact we could never have picked one to go before the other. As a unit, Josh and Tyler provide emotional support to millions, through their music, lyrics, and general existence, which makes them rockstars in our eyes. "We are twenty one pilots, and so are you…" they always say, which we guess makes us rockstars, too, right? Awesome. *(JJW)*

2 BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG

GREEN DAY

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 24▲

■ Green Day bassist Mike Dirnt once remarked that "there isn't an audience in the world that Billie Joe can't hold in the palm of his hand." In this he was right. As fans in Leeds, London and Manchester will have seen last week, the second the houselights go down this punk-rocker – who turns 45 this week – is transformed from a quietly-spoken Californian who says "er" too much into the finest frontman of his generation. Onstage he is a force of energy that might power a nation in the aftermath of a nuclear war; offstage, Billie Joe is the man responsible for sketching out a body of work that stands equal to any band ever featured in the pages of this magazine. This alone would be enough to propel our boy to the upper reaches of this list, but alongside last year's brilliant Revolution Radio album, the frontman has also been one of the most vocal opponents of the American President: "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA!" was his chant onstage at the American Music Awards. *(IW)*

50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS RIGHT NOW!

INSIDE THE 50

2017'S GREATEST IN NUMBERS...

YOUTH GONE WILD

54%

... of this year's 50 are aged 30 and below.

TAKE A BOW

38%

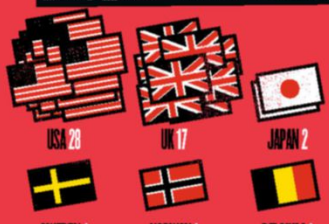
The per cent of this year's 50 comprised of new entries. Nineteen faces make their debut in 2017.

DROP-OUTS

16

The number of members of the Class Of 2016 that fail to make a return in 2017.

FLYING THE FLAG



THE EVER-PRESENTS

5

Only five names have been present in every Greatest Rockstars list since 2011: Rou Reynolds, Dave Grohl, Simon Neil, Hayley Williams and Billie Joe Armstrong.

LASTING THE DISTANCE

Number of our Greatest Rockstars who have five or more albums to their name.

BANG A DRUM

What do you call someone that hangs out with rockstars? A drummer – or so says the 50, as only PWR BTTM and Josh Dun can call themselves current sticksmen. Honourable mention to Mr. Grohl, too.

2017'S GREATEST

1

LAURA JANE GRACE AGAINST ME!

LAST YEAR'S POSITION: 5▲

"That's me, I thought, clear as day. I wanted to do that. I wanted to be that," wrote Laura Jane Grace in last year's Tranny on the impact Madonna had on her. Laying bare her journey of self-discovery in that unflinching memoir is reason enough for her coronation here. That she also released the bristling Shape Shift With Me, burned her birth certificate rather than cancel a show in a discriminatory state, and hasn't given an inch to bullshit within the same year confirms why she's our favourite firebrand. More than all these accomplishments, though, Laura has become to others what Madonna was to her: a life-changing inspiration. *(JMK)*

Q&A CONGRATS ON BEING NAMED THE GREATEST ROCKSTAR IN THE WORLD! HOW WILL YOU BE CELEBRATING?

"I've been beaming since I heard! I'll take a bubble bath and drink some champagne, then set fire to some money and drive my Porsche through Chicago really fast."

WHAT DOES THE TERM 'ROCKSTAR' MEAN TO YOU?

"I think it's changed. When I was like, eight years old, and getting into rock bands like Def Leppard and Guns N' Roses, *those* were rockstars in my head. For a long time, the term had negative connotations to it. Like, 'Ew, gross!' But I think it's come around again."

DID YOU HAVE POSTERS OF ROCKSTARS ON YOUR WALL?

"Totally. I used to read all the trashy magazines and I'd tear the pages out and put them on my wall. I was fascinated by everything. Not so long ago, I read the book On The Road With The Ramones [by Monte A. Melnick and Frank Meyer]. They're all contributing to the tale and talking about touring in the late '70s and early '80s. There were a lot of similarities, like *they* liked staying at the Hampton Inn because of the continental breakfasts. Things like that brings it down and makes it relatable. I have those moments and I'm like, 'Wow, this is really great.' By some extent, I've achieved what I set out to do with my life. I just wanted to be in a band, like the people I'd read about in those magazines. It offered an escape. To be able to make a living from playing music, I'm eternally grateful. I've had a series of moments, where I'm like, 'Whoa, this is ridiculous.' Like hanging out with Miley Cyrus and Joan Jett was a definitive rockstar moment. I'll take the title!"

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE THE GREATEST ROCKSTAR IN THE WORLD LIKE?

"I live a really split life. Half the time, I'm

INTERVIEW: SIMON YOUNG **PHOTO:** LINDSEY BYRNES

"I'LL BE CELEBRATING BY TAKING A BATH AND BURNING SOME MONEY!"

LAURA JANE GRACE

Brace yourself, Laura – we've got some news about where you place in this year's 50 Greatest countdown…

on a tour bus, playing shows with my band and all that stuff. When I come home, that immediately shuts off. I'm a single parent. This morning, I woke up at 5:45am. I got my daughter ready for school, poured her a bowl of cereal and gave her some grapefruit juice, and packed her lunch. Then I drove her 45 minutes to drop her off. Right now, I'm just hanging out at my studio space. I'll play some music, then I'll pick her up at 3:30pm, we'll do something before I make her dinner then put her to bed. When I go to the supermarket, no-one knows me."

ARE WE SEEING A NEW BREED OF SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY-MINDED ROCKSTAR?

"I don't know if it's a new breed, because I've always worked under the assumption that with the way rock music has always worked, if you're a popular artist and you're right wing, then you're immediately pretty much a joke. I've always thought the art world was a little more left-leaning. I think there's been so many bands who've kept that spirit alive for so long, and use whatever platform they have to help change the world in a positive direction – as opposed to the negative one that it seems to be heading in."

WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. ARE YOU GOING TO USE YOUR NEW MANTLE TO DISASSEMBLE THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION?

"I'm imagining some Avengers-style task force. I guess it's on me to put it together. I accept it, because something needs to be done. If that's my destiny, then that's my destiny."

Debate this year's 50 Greatest – Feedback@kerrang.com

READER TAKE OVER!

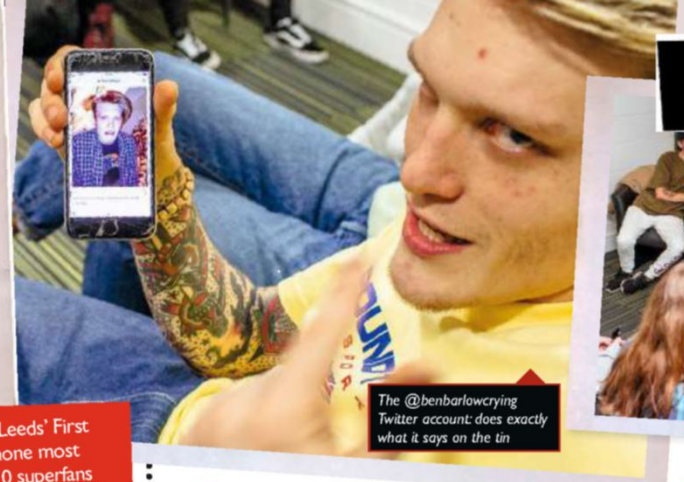
This week

NECK DEEP

TEN KERRANG! READERS. ONE POP-PUNK BAND. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN? WELL...

Everything got a bit too much for poor Ben

NECK DEEP



The @benbarlowcrying Twitter account: does exactly what it says on the tin

Ben Barlow is sat backstage at Leeds' First Direct Arena staring at his iPhone most disapprovingly. Cornered by 10 superfans for this week's Reader Takeover, the Neck Deep singer decides to find out what he can learn by Googling himself as his bandmates crease up around him. Spoiler alert: parody accounts can be very, very random…

DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS?

CHLOE, 17, WIRRAL

Matt West (guitar): "You've opened a wormhole here…"

Ben Barlow (vocals): "Not only do I believe in life on other planets, I think it's an exciting idea. The universe is fucking massive, and that's an *understatement*. It's closed-minded to say there's no possibility of life elsewhere, to believe we are the only things in this tiny corner of billions of galaxies. But you've got to take UFO stories with a bit of scepticism. Anyone on the internet can say Donald Trump shape-shifted live on CNN…"

Matt: "We watched that one yesterday, he fucking blinked – that was it!"

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DRUNKEN TOUR MEMORY?

COURTNEY, 16, GLASGOW

Dani Washington (drums): "I think the Jameson [whisky] night is my favourite… it sounds like an episode of How I Met Your Mother."

Fil Thorpe-Evans (bass/vocals): "There were leftover bottles of Jameson and dice, whoever rolled lowest had to do a shot. By the end we were necking pints."

Sam Bowden (guitar): "I puked in my bed."

Ben: "I only had two shots and ended up looking after everyone. If you looked around our bus there must have been about 20 different piles of spew. It was actually dangerous – any more and it could have been hospital-time. Where else have you heard about a lead singer cleaning up a drum tech's vomit, eh?"

HAVE YOU EVER GOOGLED YOURSELVES?

JESS, 20, LONDON

Matt: "Apparently I'm a huge Christian rock singer."

Sam: "Seriously, if you type my name, all you get is this topless woman!"

Fil: "Because my surname is double-barrelled, I don't really get anyone else…"

Matt: "I'm on Famous Birthdays but they got it wrong, so everyone tweeted me early. When it came to my actual birthday, nobody gave a shit."

Ben: "I've never done it. Let's have a look right now…"

Fil: "I bet it'll come up with you crying…"

Ben: "Fucking hell, second picture in is me looking like I'm crying after eating a chilli… and it's linked to some twitter account called @benbarlowcrying! Brilliant."

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT OBSTACLES FOR TODAY'S POP-PUNK SCENE COMPARED TO THE ONE YOU GREW UP LISTENING TO?

JESSICA, 19, BELFAST

Matt: "When we were younger, there wasn't much internet or social media."

Ben: "There were no playlists of millions of bands. There's a bigger audience now, but it also means there's more competition. It's harder to stand out. Learning how to keep up with the times is part of the challenge, but I don't think the genre has changed massively."

"I DON'T WANT ANYONE'S BRA, THANKS. IT'S GRIM!"

● BEN BARLOW ●

WHAT GOES THROUGH YOUR MIND WHEN YOU SEE A FAN WITH A NECK DEEP TATTOO?

DANNY, 17, BIRMINGHAM

Ben: "It's the sickest thing! We've all got ink, and we know what it means to give up a bit of skin. And I've got one of my favourite band, blink-182, so I know what drives people to do that. The only thing I find weird is if someone wants my signature to get tattooed."

Matt: "Imagine if you were in a rush and did it real shit?!"

WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST HOBBIES OUTSIDE MUSIC?

JESSICA, 16, BIRMINGHAM

Ben: "Fil's the main film buff, while I'm a big video gamer. We're all into our clothes and fashion, tattoo art, skateboarding – all of it became a huge part of our lives. None of us are into anything extremely weird, except for Matt's toy collection…"

Matt: "I love the way Dani brings people to my house just to laugh. Thanks for coming round and giggling at me in my own home, mate!"

YOU COLLABORATED WITH MARK HOPPUS AND CHRIS CARRABBA ON DECEMBER. WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK WITH NEXT?

JACK, 23, NOTTINGHAM

Dani: "Bono! At least it would be on everyone's phones!"

Ben: "My ultimate was always a blink member."

Matt: "Do they have to be alive?"

Dani: "Well, it *would* help, wouldn't it?!"

Sam: "Taylor Swift?"

Fil: "Corey Taylor?"

Ben: "He's an intelligent guy, he was on QI and has written books and shit. There's a lot going on up there."

WHAT'S YOUR WEIRDEST FAN STORY?

JOSH, 20, LINCOLN

Ben: "Early on, when I smoked ciggies, this girl started talking to me backstage and I gradually realised she was weird. When I spat on the wall, she licked up all my ciggie spit… It was so rank. I doubt anyone can top that!"

Dani: "Once in Chicago, I'd lost my stage shorts and fashioned some new ones out of material and tape. After playing, some girl picked them up and took a big whiff."

Ben: "That's not even romantic. Your ball-sack isn't a scent that's going to be attractive (*laughs*)!"

WHAT'S YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE TRACK OFF THE LAST ALBUM?

JACOB, 19, DONCASTER

Dani: "Rock Bottom almost didn't make the cut at all…"

Fil: "I remember being in the studio with [producer] Jeremy [McKinnon, A Day To Remember] and him saying, 'Trust me!' Rock Bottom wouldn't have happened with him. Jeremy wanted three passes where he could override us. Another was the end of Kali Ma – I think he's still got one left over for the next album!"

Ben: "I remember Citizens Of Earth was tough for me to write, because political stuff *is* hard… You don't want to sound like a dickhead."

WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING YOU'VE HAD THROWN AT YOU ONSTAGE?

AMBER, 18, LINCOLN

Matt: "There was one tour where I got hit by beer within seconds of walking out three nights in a row. It was full-on projectile aiming, trying to snipe me!"

Ben: "We've had a few bras, which I always find pretty grim. I don't want anyone's bra, thanks. Keep it on."

Matt: "Then there was that rogue Croc. I actually put it on and wore it for the rest of the set (*laughs*)!"

Fil: "We do a lost and found, calling names out if anyone's wallet gets thrown up. '*Come on down!*'"

The next Reader Takeover will be… A Day To Remember

INTERVIEW HOST: AMIT SHARMA **PHOTOS:** TOM MARTIN

LIVES

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

BLACK SABBATH

PLUS: RIVAL SONS

GENTING ARENA, BIRMINGHAM. 04.02.17

KKKKK

TIME FOR TEARS: THE ORIGINAL AND BEST WAVE GOODBYE IN THEIR HOME CITY

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL **PHOTOS:** ROSS HALFIN

"SHOULD WE come back and do this again?" asks Ozzy Osbourne, as an absolutely crushing War Pigs segues into a version of Behind The Wall Of Sleep that has never sounded so good. He pauses and soaks up the cheer, then deadpans: "We're not."

So here we are. The end of The End. Not for the first time, Ozzy, Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler are playing their final show together as Black Sabbath. But tonight, The Greatest And Best Band In The History Of Everything are not falling apart through excess, disinterest and fractured relationships as they did at the end of the '70s. Nor are they simply coming to the end of a reunion run. This is Sabbath ending it on their own terms – albeit without Bill Ward – and the send-off party they're throwing is simply perfect.

Ozzy's nose rued the day he had beans for tea

Watching Rival Sons, it's hard not to think "gits", purely for the fact that they've been sharing the stage with Sabbath for the last year and a bit. It's turned a band who already have an enviable skill with riffs and swing into pure liquid groove. It also appears to have turned guitarist Scott Holiday into Christian Bale in American Hustle, but his blue suit, shades indoors and waxed moustache are also very, very cool.

There are so many emotions as the curtain at the front of the stage drops to reveal Black Sabbath, surrounded by fire, hammering out the Earth-shaking tritone of their signature tune, you're not sure whether to laugh, cry, cheer or run in fear of just how overpowering they sound. In the end, Ozzy's instruction to "Go fucking crazy" is the most appropriate. And it's hard not to with Snowblind, Hand

BLACK SABBATH

GENTING ARENA, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

BLACK SABBATH
FAIRIES WEAR BOOTS
UNDER THE SUN
AFTER FOREVER
INTO THE VOID
SNOWBLIND
WAR PIGS
BEHIND THE WALL OF SLEEP
N.I.B.
HAND OF DOOM
SUPERNAUT / SABBATH
BLOODY SABBATH /
MEGALOMANIA MEDLEY
RAT SALAD
IRON MAN
DIRTY WOMEN
CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE

PARANOID

STAR SHOUT!

OZZY OSBOURNE

(BLACK SABBATH, VOCALS)

HOW'S THE END TOUR BEEN FOR YOU, SIR?
"We've been on the road on and off for the past 18 months, we've been all over the world – Australia, Europe, South America – and it's been great. It's sad to think we're calling it a day, but I'm glad we can do it like this."

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES SABBATH SO MAGIC FOR PEOPLE?
"We did it blindly; we just did what we wanted to do. And I've always said this about Tony Iommi – I've always said there's no person on the face of the Earth that can come up with as demonic riffs as he can. I don't know where he gets them from. Sometimes my hair stands on end, it's amazing. He doesn't follow a trend, either. He doesn't go, 'Oh, whammy bars are in this week.' He had the tips of his fingers chopped off and I say, 'How the fuck do you know when you're touching the strings?' It's like playing with a blindfold on. It's unbelievable!"

Of Doom, N.I.B. (preceded by a Geezer bass solo that puts anyone else operating with four strings in the bin), Fairies Wear Boots and Iron Man seizing hold of your soul in a way they've never managed to before. Throughout, Tony Iommi cannot stop smiling, although, as ever, he politely waves and looks a little "What? Me?" when Ozzy throws the spotlight on him and dubs him "King of the riffs".

And that he is. So much so that a mid-set instrumental medley featuring Supernaut, Sabbath Bloody Sabbath and Megalomania is an unexpected highlight. Tommy Clufetos' drum solo is so long you've got time to go for a piss, get a drink, or grow a beard and then shave it off, but the staggering form the band are on when they return for a closing hat-trick of Dirty Women, Children Of The Grave and, of course, Paranoid is worth waiting for.

Rumours of another show at some point are already flying about before you've even got all the Sabbath-branded confetti from tonight's CO2 cannons out of your hair. But as Ozzy thanks us all and yells "God bless" for the billionth time, he looks like he's holding back tears that say this is indeed The End. And, really, they couldn't possibly recreate the two-way feeling of love they've filled their home city's biggest shed with. Tonight, whether you remember it by how staggeringly heavy Tony's riffs sound (and *feel*), Ozzy giving one of the best vocal performances he's ever done, or simply the sight of grown men openly weeping in the car park, it all means the same thing: we just saw the best band ever play the show of their lives. And there will never be another like them.

Rival Sons: Always first in the queue at the meet-and-greets

THE WONDER YEARS

PLUS: PUP, TRASH BOAT

KOKO, LONDON. 01.02.17

KKKK

THE WORLD'S SMARTEST POP-PUNK BAND BRING A BIG BAG OF CLASS, GRACE AND EMOTIONS TO LONDON

DAN 'SOUPY' Campbell is having a moment. Dressed like a teen and fronting a band who look like dockers, The Wonder Years frontman regards this beautiful four-balconied theatre in Camden Town and reflects on the days when the sextet made their bones in the spit'n'sawdust joints of Philadelphia. "Who knew that we'd sell out KOKO a month in advance?" he says. It's a decent point, but in framing it in this way he comes across as needy, when, deservedly, he should be triumphant.

The house is also crowded for the arrival of St Albans' not-so-roughnecks Trash Boat, whose energetic thump provides a fitting starter for the early-birders. Frontman Tobi Duncan's easy manner in speaking to the crowd offsets his tendency to wander off-key while singing. Toronto punk quartet PUP are better still, with the melancholic coat over their propulsive music translating well with the receptive crowd. "You're too fucking nice," they tell those gathered before them, which considering this band are from Canada is saying something.

Both as a studio outfit and a live band, The Wonder Years are a cut above. Tonight's 70-minute set begins with the tranquil No Closer To Heaven, a decision that allows the band to set a mood on which they can build at their own pace. The effect of this is that the audience's palate is never scorched by too much of the same thing. It's more than the fact that at times the band play with two drummers, three guitarists, plus a keyboard, that makes this appearance so rich with texture; it's also the richness and quality of the band's material, material that does its best to overcome a sound that's no friend to those gathered on KOKO's top two balconies. For optimum audio quality, a listen to The Wonder Years on album is recommended. But for a gig experience that is intimate, expansive and enriched, this is a fine night out.

PUP: So good, we're confident they're going to Wimbledon

Soupy loved taking his tiny, invisible horse wherever he went

STAR SHOUT!

DAN 'SOUPY' CAMPBELL

(THE WONDER YEARS, VOCALS)

HOW WAS LONDON FOR YOU TONIGHT?
"It was unbelievable. I said it onstage, and I meant it. When we were playing basements and gymnasiums, we were dreaming of nights like this one."

WHICH OF YOUR NEWER SONGS DO YOU THINK TRANSLATES THE BEST LIVE?
"I think it's the combination of Brothers & and Cardinals. The way that it builds with the crowd singing, '*We're no saviors if we can't save our brothers*' into the big drop that starts Cardinals always stuns me with how loud it gets."

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

ARCANE ROOTS

PLUS: MÅNTRA

BUSH HALL, LONDON. 03.02.17

KKKK

KINGSTON ROCKERS EMBRACE BRAVE NEW WORLD IN STYLE

Andrew Groves really didn't want us looking at what chords he plays in his new song

■ WE'VE CAUGHT Arcane Roots at a strange time. For years the Kingston trio have been a band with a hot temperament. Loud. Hurried. Intense. A band that you watch once and all your teeth fall out. But the arrival of new single Curtains, along with the words from the band that came with it, signalled a departure – to a sound that's more patient, cool, electronic. But while we await an album that commits to this new outlook, we find a band caught between states – like a chrysalis, or Teen Wolf when he has hairy hands but a normal face still. It makes tonight's one-off performance in the curiously scenic Bush Hall (chandeliers!) an unpredictable, distinctive watch.

But Londoners Måntra get their footprints on the stage first. The band's smart, frenetic bedroom rock arrives in slurs and drawls from beneath Simon Stark's thick fringe, while the group's dedication to guitar solos sees them consistently bent double. It's an energetic start.

"You've accepted what we want to do. It means the world," says Arcane Roots' frontman Andrew Groves ahead of a first-ever play of the airy Off The Floor, a song that feels like an ice cube down the back. The Friday night crowd accepts it like an old friend, but there's still a more boisterous streak reserved for the songs with more familiar names – Leaving, Over & Over and If Nothing Breaks, Nothing Moves commanding a feverish rowdiness. These songs may be delivered with sharp force and swagger, with Andrew rocking back and forth with his guitar pinned tight to his chest, but it's the fragile, comfort-zone-exited execution of Curtains – even with its false start – that will stay seared on to memories the longest. It hints at an impressive new dawn for Arcane Roots.

STAR SHOUT!

ANDREW GROVES

(ARCANE ROOTS, VOCALS/GUITAR)

WHAT'S WITH THE UNUSUAL VENUE CHOICE, THEN?

"We're writing this album that's really, really thrown all caution to the wind and where we just take as many risks as we physically can. And if that means a huge orchestra or 100 synths, then that's what we did. And for me there's no sense in spending all that time on that and then going and playing in a local pub."

WERE YOU ANXIOUS ABOUT PLAYING SOME NEW STUFF?

"Only that I have to play that synth that I've only been playing for about six months or something!"

WORDS: TOM SHEPHERD **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

CREEPER

BOSTON MUSIC ROOM, LONDON. 31.01.17

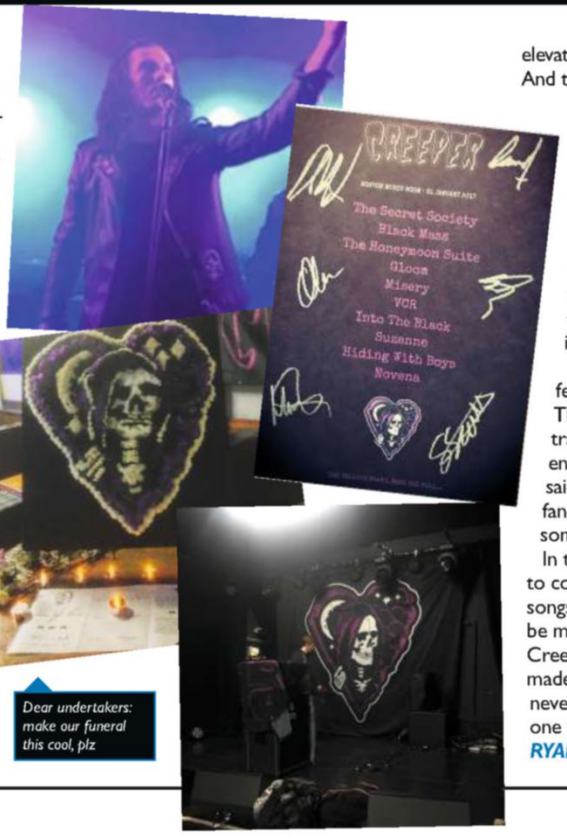
KKKKK

SOUTHAMPTON HORROR-PUNKS THROW A FUNERAL PARTY FOR THEIR OLD SONGS

■ TONIGHT, CREEPER have gathered their nearest and dearest to attend a secret funeral in London. The deceased? Three songs – Into The Black, The Secret Society and Novena – that the band are retiring from set lists as they gear up to release their long-awaited debut album, Eternity, In Your Arms, in March.

Entry is restricted to those who have pre-ordered the record, the idea being that only the most die-hard Creeper cultists will be in attendance. As a result, the room is awash with Callous Heart patches and people dressed as characters from the band's canon. Few funerals in history have been as excitedly anticipated as this, and every flicker of movement on the stage is met with gasps. When Creeper finally appear, the room explodes with noise.

The foreboding opening notes of the dearly departed The Secret Society cut through that noise with ease. Half-fuelled by the passion with which the band are playing in front of them, half by the knowledge that this is the last time they'll ever be able to hear it live, every voice in the room elevates the opening '*woah-oh*'s to a deafening level. And things don't let up all night.



Dear undertakers: make our funeral this cool, plz

Between raucous renditions of cuts from each of their three EPs, frontman Will Gould delivers between-song speeches that range from the hilarious (a tour story involving letlive.'s Jason Butler), to the sincere (a tribute to their fans' devotion), to the heartbreaking (dedicating a song to a friend who recently took their own life). And on all counts, he is utterly captivating. We've named Will one of the 50 Greatest Rockstars In The World in this issue, and tonight that star shines bright.

The final four songs are frankly astonishing: a feverishly-received farewell to the elusive Into The Black, phenomenal performances of new tracks Suzanne and Hiding With Boys, and an entirely moving Novena. And by the time all is said and done, everyone in the room – band and fans alike – know that they've just experienced something truly special.

In this cruel world of ours, all good things have to come to an end sooner or later. But since the songs that were laid to rest tonight are going to be making way for songs that are sure to catapult Creeper into the stratosphere, the band have made a necessary sacrifice this evening. But let it never be forgotten that these songs were given one hell of a send off.

RYAN DE FREITAS

REVIEWS

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

ALL THEM WITCHES

SLEEPING THROUGH THE WAR *(NEW WEST)*

KKKK

READY FOR THE TRIP OF 2017? NASHVILLE PSYCH-HEADS TAKE YOU INTO THE AETHER ON SUBLIME FOURTH ALBUM

'AIN'T NOBODY gonna tell me how to run my town!' rasps Charles Michael Parks, Jr. on Sleeping Through The War's second track, Don't Bring Me Coffee. No shit. Starting at a folky, Springsteen-ish saunter before off-roading into oddball, QOTSA-like desert rock, the All Them Witches frontman proves he's a slave to nothing on a powerful protest against, er, coffee, actually.

Think that's weird? You ain't seen nothin' yet. 2013 breakthrough Lightning At The Door and 2015's superbly-titled Dying Surfer Meets His Maker saw this Nashville quartet stirring the cauldron and refining their mind-expanding formula. This follow-up finds them distilling; fine-tuning; beefing it up and nailing it down. More method, if you will, means more madness.

Gone are the jam-session sensibilities, replaced with studio-set structure. Predictability remains prohibited, mind. And, even with an almost Tarantino-esque tendency for referencing their heroes – Black Sabbath, Pink Floyd, Clutch, Fu Manchu – ATW piece those elements together with anarchic, uninhibited verve.

Opening with seven minutes of head-spinning expanse, Bulls sets the bar, with its sporadically surging bassline rocketing through an ambient galaxy of swooning vocals, swirling guitars, asteroid-field percussion and alien-sounding keys. Bruce Lee slices through, fittingly, with karate-chop accuracy. Cowboy Kirk, meanwhile, gallops on, like the ragged soundtrack for some forgotten sci-fi western – like Westworld's sweeping deserts glimpsed through flickering forcefields on the USS Enterprise.

The album's rigid composition could have constricted the free-flowing groove. Instead, it's opened space, facilitating grander experimentation. Keyboardist Allan Van Cleave's Mellotron bleeds strange, '60s flavour. Three-part female backing vocals daub on classic-rock colour. Nods to horizons near (Tennessee's rough-hewn Appalachian mountain music) contrast strikingly with touches from farther afield (the mesmeric mysticism of the Far East). Blended, it's an intoxicating moonshine-mix – hangover-free, guaranteed.

Nostalgia can make for slow-rotting poison, though, as well as fast-burning fuel. As heroes like Sabbath riff their last, the next denim-clad generation must avoid becoming mere tour guides shuffling past the same old Yellow Submarines, Headless Crosses and Dark Sides Of the Moon. But from the kaleidoscopic swoop of 3-5-7 via Alabaster's psychotropic percussion to the country-fried melancholia of Am I Going Up? and through wry, 11-minute closer Internet, however, All Them Witches have conjured fresh landmarks all their own. Admission's free. Go on, take the trip.

DOWNLOAD: Bruce Lee, 3-5-7.
FOR FANS OF: Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats, Queens Of The Stone Age, Baroness.
SAM LAW

"PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GROOMED TO IGNORE BAD THINGS..."

CHARLES MICHAEL PARKS, JR.

THE INSIDER

CHARLES MICHAEL PARKS, JR.

(VOCALS/BASS)

TELL US ABOUT THE CONCEPT BEHIND THAT TITLE – SLEEPING THROUGH THE WAR...

"It's about how people are living in this day and age. They just ignore all the bad stuff – from warfare, to stuff in their neighbourhood – and hope it never gets to them. And there's an instant gratification in just getting on your phone to take you away from the situation. It's like we're groomed to ignore."

HOW HAS THAT AFFECTED YOUR SONGWRITING?

"It's something I've just been feeling these past few years. If you look at the other albums, you can see the lyrics begin to change as I mature as a person. I guess with age you begin to see where you've been coddled your whole life to help smooth society. There wasn't any particular point where it became clear, but I've begun to figure out what all my strange words mean more recently. Some people argue politics. Some build houses. Some write songs. It's a stream of consciousness that means something to me – a culmination of turning on the news every day and seeing something bad. There doesn't seem to be any good news any more."

THE ALBUM SEEMS MORE FOCUSED. HOW HAS YOUR WRITING STYLE CHANGED?

"Well, we actually wrote before we went into the studio this time! We found we had four days between tours and just went to this place in Georgia and wrote it. We only had four days to get our act together – so we did. Then we went on tour and had time to work out some ideas. Then we had six days to record!"

TRACK BY TRACK

DECADE

PLEASANTRIES (RUDE)

KKKK

BATH ALT.ROCKERS' COLOURFUL SECOND ALBUM DELIVERS ANGST AND TUNES IN EQUAL MEASURE

1 HUMAN BEING
Four years is a long time for Bath alt.rockers Decade to make us wait for a follow-up to their sparkling Good Luck debut. But judging by these honeyed melodies, they've spent that time polishing each hook to a dazzling shine. Sold!

2 DAISY MAY
Swaggering staccato riff? Rousing sing-alongs? A dreamy bridge? We checked and this ticks all the boxes for 'Banger'.

3 TURN OFF YOUR TV
Speaking of bangers, Pleasantries takes many cues from '90s alt.rock anthems. This features the kinds of wobbling guitar goodness that Feeder conquered the airwaves with.

4 ANAEMIA
How can Alex Sears make having '*A hole in my heart*' sound like so much fun? With catchy choruses about having an iron deficiency, that's how.

5 WASTED
You know when you're out with your friends, but you'd rather be home because you feel empty inside? This is that, except it sounds AWESOME.

6 SUNBEAM
This is how it would sound if Weezer and The Cure went on summer holiday together. It's sugary guitar-pop perfection.

7 BRAND NEW AGAIN
A bit of a mid-tempo plodder. But when it's in such sparkly packaging, who really cares?

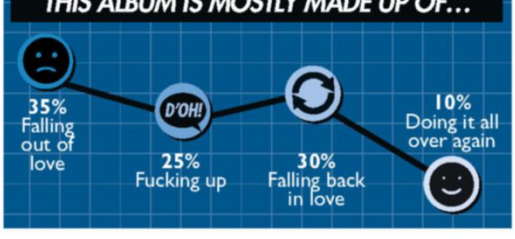
8 PEACH MILK
Moody melodies and falsetto vocals that meld into an emotionally rupturing breakdown? Hello there, song that sounds like bad-mood Muse!

9 CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT
'*You taste like the rain but my glass is half empty*'. Erm, not the most flattering icebreaker we've heard, but we'll let it slide because This. Song. Is. Gorgeous.

10 GEIST
Haunted by a lover? Then this obsessively spooked song is for you. Also, call an exorcist.

11 CAPSULES
'*I'll never get this right and fucking everything up makes me feel alive*'. Appropriate parting words for a record as human as it is ragingly beautiful.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF...



WORDS: JAMES MACKINNON

ACRES

IN SICKNESS & HEALTH EP *(DREAM ATLANTIC)*

KKKK

SAD SOUTH COASTERS' THIRD EP PACKS BIG POST-HARDCORE INTO A SMALL PACKAGE

YOU CAN judge ambition by quantity or quality. Either you cast off songs like tweets, or you ensure each song you write is so big it demands your attention. Firmly in the latter category are Acres, who over three EPs have carved their wall of sound into crystalline peaks. Between Gloom's skyscraping guitar squalls and plummeting hooks, Ben Lumber's haunting croon guides you into an arena-baiting refrain of *'What have we become?'* Meanwhile, the 'sad version' of rager Miles Apart opts for a Deftones-esque haze of ambient guitars and croaked vocals, pointing to horizons yet to explore. Until a full-length emerges (get on that boys, yeah?), In Sickness & Health is a perfect introduction to this most ambitious-sounding of bands.

DOWNLOAD: Miles Apart.
FOR FANS OF: Northlane, Deftones.
JAMES MACKINNON

NO ZODIAC

ALTARS OF IMPURITY *(SIEGE MUSIC)*

KK

ULTRA-HEAVY DEATHCORE SLUGGERS BRING THE BRUTALITY BUT NOTHING ELSE

ROARING OUT of Phoenix, Arizona, this third full-length from brutal hardcore mob No Zodiac treads the line between U.S. Satan-botherering Deicide's speed and the thump of Thy Art Is Murder. It's a punishing display from five men with a clear and sinister vision. It's not reinventing any wheels, but boy is it angry, fuelled by barbaric screams and heartstopping drums, the bulldozer-heavy riffs leaving your brain whimpering in the corner of your cranium. Committing sonic atrocities amidst a backdrop of cruelty, the hellish vocals and the grimace-inducing groove are enough to warm up your vertebrae, but it lacks any real identity in what has become an overcrowded scene. When envelopes are being pushed all directions by other corners of hardcore, it's hard to find much to write home about once you've found the ability to move again.

DOWNLOAD: Corroded Soul.
FOR FANS OF: Deicide, Thy Art Is Murder.
LUKE MORTON

GHOST IRIS

BLIND WORLD *(LONG BRANCH/SPV)*

KKKK

DANISH DJENTLEMEN DELIVER THE GOODS WITH ALBUM NUMBER TWO

THE ARTWORK which adorns Ghost Iris' second album speaks volumes about their ambition. At once, it takes in an ocean, a mountain and a sky so vast that you can see the troposphere and exosphere. It may take several listens to fully digest the follow-up to their 2015 debut Anecdotes Of Science & Soul – but that's not to say it's overly complicated in order to win any djent pissing contests. It's simply because the Copenhagen quartet's songs are so richly layered and broad, they sound *huge*; Nicklas Grønlund Thomsen's surgically precise guitar playing and Jesper Vicencio's ridiculous vocal range are vast, and make Blind World fully deserving of your attention.

DOWNLOAD: Gods Of Neglect.
FOR FANS OF: Meshuggah, Periphery.
SIMON YOUNG

LYRIC OF THE WEEK

'And no matter how much I fan the flames / Canada always answers when I call her name'. Japandroids have some sort of amazing power. We've tried talking to Wales many, many times and never had a reply. Sad face.

BAND: Japandroids
SONG: North East South West
ALBUM: Near To The Wild Heart Of Life

SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

Is that a boy with a house grafted onto his head? It's a boy with a house grafted onto his head. Now why is that, A Will Away? Is there a reason you've got that on your Here Again album cover other than 'because house-head'? You don't need one.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

HEAVYDIRTYSOUL TWENTY ONE PILOTS

Drums on fire! And a car with loads of sparks coming out of it! A metaphor? Or simply a sensible idea since the new TØP video is set in a cold, snowy landscape and neither of them are wearing a coat? It's the latter, innit?

EMBER FALLS

WELCOME TO EMBER FALLS *(SPINEFARM)*

KKKK

FINNISH ELECTRO-METALLERS DELIVER HIGH-VOLTAGE THRILLS'N'SPILLS

FOR AN outfit apparently encamped on the electronic cutting-edge, there seems to be an awful lot familiar about Ember Falls. There's the facepainted, red'n'black aesthetic and in-yer-face Eurotrash gimmickry, reminiscent of Finnish countrymen Turisas, for one. There's their synth-laden brand of snarling melodic death metal, too; it's shred-heavy tendencies referencing everyone from In Flames to Sonic Syndicate to Children Of Bodom. And, in the dancefloor-pounding chuggery and clean-edged pop-metal hooks that hallmark early singles COE and The Cost Of Doing Business they've clearly been taking notes from Crossfaith. But the way they pump out their beats and gatecrash your ears is so full of adrenaline and confidence that you can't fault them at all. Head to Ember Falls, and party your arse off.

DOWNLOAD: COE.
FOR FANS OF: In Flames, Crossfaith.
SAM LAW

MEAT WAVE

THE INCESSANT *(BIG SCARY MONSTERS)*

KKKK

AS CONFESSIONAL AS IT GETS – BREAK-UP PUNK WITH A BIG DOLLOP OF HURT

WE'VE ALL been there. First love break-ups are icebergs that never truly melt, but 26-year-old Chris Sutter is here to warm the liquor. The Incessant, that's what the Chicago frontman names those glacial, scathing blues, having recently admitted defeat on a 10-year relationship. Keeping a notebook during this time allowed Chris to pin down and pen his emotions, spooling his sprawling thoughts into song. The Incessant is an enraged punk album with the occasional sombre stupor slinked within. Tranquilised and charged, it takes on many outfits. Run You Out flaunts this to the utmost, interlacing Hot Snakes' aggression with a melodic interlude, reminiscent of The Smiths' Back To The Old House. It's a middle finger to all the heartbreakers out there and a helping hand to the rest.

DOWNLOAD: No Light.
FOR FANS OF: The Breeders, Drive Like Jehu.
CECILIA DINWOODIE

BENIGHTED

NECROBREED *(SEASON OF MIST)*

KKK

FRENCH METALLERS KEEP THINGS BE-NASTY ON SCATHING EIGHTH FULL-LENGTH

BENIGHTED ARE not good when it comes to subtlety. They're even worse at warming the cockles of broken hearts. Their capacity for creating radio-friendly hooks is nonexistent. It's probably just as well, then, that when it comes to penning blistering deathgrind, they vividly realise their goal of scarring your ear canals every time. Necrobreed sees them once again hit the mark, containing 39 minutes of unrepentant violence. Perhaps a little less technical than past releases, it still contains all the hallmarks that makes them so intense, with Forgive Me Father, Reptilian and closing beast Mass Grave almost ridiculously vicious in their delivery. Don't expect Benighted's Cuddliest Lullabies Vol. I any time soon.

DOWNLOAD: Mass Grave.
FOR FANS OF: Aborted, Ingested.
DAN SLESSOR

IT'S VERY hard to overestimate just how important Yorkshire's Peaceville Records has been in the history and evolution of metal. As the first label to sign bands as diverse as doom legends Paradise Lost, metallers-turned-prog-dreamers Anathema, black metal terrors Darkthrone and 'orrible crust-punks Doom (featuring a teenage Johnny Doom from Kerrang! Radio on vocals), they released some of the most important albums of their genres, and continue to be a fertile place for heavy music. To celebrate their 30th birthday

ON THE STEREO

1 PATRICK STUMP – WHO'S THE (BAT)MAN?
Stumpy's done a song for the Lego Batman movie! Although that's Batman growling away there, not Patrick. Unless… you ever seen them in the same place? Rumbled.

2 AS IT IS – HEY RACHEL
An apology to Patty Walters' sister, wrapped in a big pop-punk bow. Aww.

3 EVAROSE – TELEPHONIC
The Oxford four-piece return with a big, massive ballad. Lighters out, folks!

4 THE ONE HUNDRED – DARK MATTERS
TOH have been threatening to release their debut for ages. On this evidence, it'll be glorious.

5 THE OBSESSED – RAZOR WIRE
Sabbath are gone, but you can still get big, bad riffs from these U.S. doom kings.

BATTLE BEAST

BRINGER OF PAIN *(NUCLEAR BLAST)*

KKK

FINLAND'S MOST METAL DECIDE THAT TONIGHT THEY'RE GONNA PARTY LIKE IT'S 1984

THERE'S A world map that did the internet rounds showing countries ranked by the number of metal bands per capita. Finland is the most metal of all nations, but even there Battle Beast are more metal than most. They're not the heaviest or the fastest but few contemporary bands tap into the source quite as faithfully. '*Hear the thunder roar*', growls leather-clad frontwoman Noora Louhimo on opener Straight To The Heart, opening the cliché floodgate and letting them all rush out. There are classic metal riffs and wailing solos, real-world issues flashed through a fantasy lens and great big keyboard-banked choruses that smell faintly of perming solution. These battles have been fought before, but this is still a beast of an album.

DOWNLOAD: Straight To The Heart.
FOR FANS OF: Judas Priest, Wolf.
PAUL TRAVERS

PIANO WIRE

DREAM UNDERGROUND *(HANGING HOUSES)*

KKKK

DEBAUCHED DEBUT FROM FORMER EIGHTIES MATCHBOX B-LINE DISASTER CHAPS

FROM VILE Imbeciles to Clever Thing, there's been plenty of noise from former members of Brighton degenerates The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster. This new rabble, formed by guitarist Andy Huxley and bassist Sym Gharial, seem most likely to convert cult appeal into crossover success. Harnessing a twisted pop sensibility alongside the swagger of prime QOTSA, Piano Wire get both weirder and catchier with each listen. The psychedelic poetry of Sym's lyrics draw heavily on his damaged past, meaning nobody is going to complain about a shortage of drug references on Dream Underground. It all adds up to a truly winning formula on this killer debut.

DOWNLOAD: Outline Of A Massacre.
FOR FANS OF: QOTSA, Iggy Pop.
OLLY THOMAS

this year, they're re-releasing some of their finest works on lovely vinyl over the next 12 months. First up, **DARKTHRONE**'s **A BLAZE IN THE NORTHERN SKY (KKKKK)** picture disc. Often credited as the first Norwegian black metal album, the harsh sounds within were enough to make the label question what the hell the band were doing. Not for

too long, though, as it's a masterclass in cold, vicious extremity. And then there's **SEVERED SURVIVAL** by California death metal sickos **AUTOPSY (KKKKK)** – an essential record with filthy production that makes the riffs squelch and squish like a bucket full of giblets. Finally in this lot, there's **KATATONIA**'s **THE GREAT COLD DISTANCE (KKKK)**, a moody, ethereal work that fans of headphones, darkness and Anathema will love. Happy birthday, Peaceville! Here's to 10 more months of killer vinyl reissues!

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

Emperor

IX EQUILIBRIUM

(CANDLELIGHT, 1999)

THE ALBUM THAT TOOK BLACK METAL TO THE WORLD, AND WON IT THE WORLD'S RESPECT

THE FIRST time Emperor came to visit K! Towers in 1993, it was not because the then-staff liked their music. For a laff, we got the corpse-painted Norwegian teens in to review the singles, took the piss, and labelled a picture of them, 'Left to right: Donut, Donut, Donut and Donut'. Black metal was not a respected genre; hard-to-listen-to music, with a background of murder and church arson. How we laughed. Joke was on us, though. Because a few years later, Emperor had grown into a fearsome force that had outgrown the black metal underground and delivered an album that pushed not just black metal, but metal itself to places that were more intense, complex and musically advanced than ever before. It helped turn Emperor into a global success, and proved that there was much more to black metal than some had thought. With a new vinyl reissue out, frontman Ihsahn looks back and has the last laugh…

THIS ALBUM SAW EMPEROR REALLY STRETCHING THEIR WINGS. WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO WITH IT?

IHSAHN (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Well, we have never been content to stay in one place, we have always wanted to push things further. But this was never a conscious decision. Looking back, for me at least, the fact that we had been touring much more with the Anthems… [1997] record indirectly influenced it because of the direct contact with the audience. Whereas Anthems… was very floating and ethereal in a sense, and very mysterious, Equilibrium is far more in-your-face and direct. I ended up writing a lot more material on this album. I wrote lots of material on an old-school Dictaphone. I would play multiple guitar riffs with no amplifier, just clean in!"

IT SEEMED TO BE THE FIRST TIME BLACK METAL GOT RESPECT FROM THE MAINSTREAM AND RECOGNISED FOR THE MUSIC. WOULD YOU AGREE?

"The first few weeks of sales were crazy – over 50,000 units in the first three weeks! It was an unexpected album in a sense. We came to do an interview in the Kerrang! office, and it was very different to when we first came in! The first time we were ridiculed, but that's understandable in many ways – we were these crazy Norwegians! There was a big change, in a sense, and I get it. It's always like this with underground music. When we started there were no international black metal bands. It wasn't considered a [credible] genre."

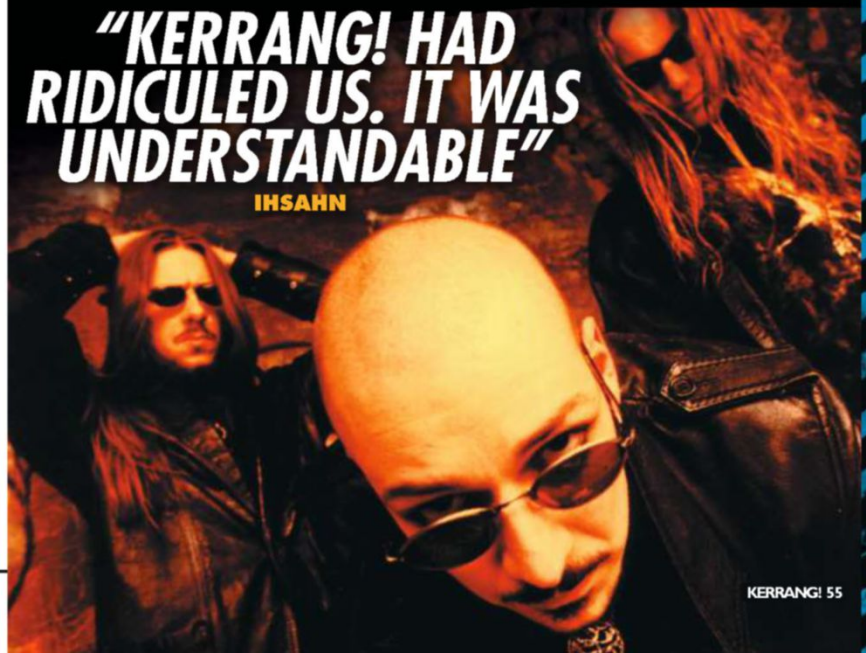
DO YOU THINK THIS ALBUM SHOWED PEOPLE THERE WAS MORE TO BLACK METAL THAN CHURCH BURNING AND MURDER?

"To some extent. It depends, I guess, in who took an interest. There's still an element of drama. It's undeniable and you can't get away from it. But if the music was all crap, the drama wouldn't really last. We weren't just singing about this stuff, we were going the extra mile. It made it more dangerous, more real. Throughout rock history people have always been drawn to this dangerous element. I mean, you can't talk about Jimi Hendrix without acknowledging his drug abuse. It makes it more interesting, the whole psychedelic-influenced music. But it doesn't necessarily condone the use of drugs, but instead it adds to the whole package, and how people perceive it."

HOW DO YOU FEEL LOOKING BACK AT IX EQUILIBRIUM NOW?

"I think it is another stepping stone, it represents a period of our lives and where we were musically. We are from rural Telemark in Norway. When we started out it wasn't even an option that this could be a career. Our end goal was to get it released on vinyl. I like to say that the appeal of the first two albums is because they were for artistic ambitions only, especially as there were no commercial avenues to pursue back then. You had to just make the best of it and try and enjoy it."

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL



K!LOBBER

MU$T HAV£S

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

If you high-fived those hands they'd lick you, so probably don't do that. Just wear this and look like a walking bogey instead.
£12.99 Grindstore.com

Trump's a chump, taking a dump on America and it's giving us the hump. This jumper makes us feel better, though. Fist bump.
£24.65 Etsy.com

When you're trying to kill zombies but accidentally dip your hand and gun in a pot of white paint. Yeah, that.
£14.99 Impericon.com

This TØP bag is perfect for carrying your car radio so no-one can nick it. All thieves will be left with is tissues in the glove box. Suckers!
$18.32 (£14.67) Hottopic.com

In a parallel universe Don Broco are a metal band. We found a portal behind our stationery cupboard, and brought this back.
£17.99 Donbroco.bigcartel.com

It might be The End of Black Sabbath themselves, but it's not the end of clothes featuring their names and massive full stops.
£16.45 Etsy.com

What's better: pizza, Stranger Things or Neck Deep? Obviously it's pizza, but the other two come a pretty close joint-second. Thank goodness this excellent tie-dye shirt combines all three.
$25 (£20) Merchnow.com

The ice-cream man definitely doesn't sell melted dead bats on a stick. Not ours, anyway.
£26.99 Grindstore.com

In 2013 My Chemical Romance were in the jaws of defeat. Now they're just in some regular jaws on this nice crew neck.
£29.99 Impericon.com

Better lace these Vans up well or you'll have Magpies swooping down and pulling them straight off your feet.
£69.99 Impericon.com

You'd expect this Against Me! 333 shirt to cost £33, but actually it's only £15. Bargain.
£15 Eu.kingsroadmerch.com

Star Wars meets Space Invaders the game (and the crisps, if you eat some and wipe your fingers down it).
£13.99 Grindstore.com

PLUG IN BABY

WHETHER YOU'VE GOT MASSIVE HOLES IN YOUR EARS OR NOT, WE HAVE THE PLUGS FOR EVERY OCCASION...

This T-shirt is like a metaphor for life – we're all roses, our beauty slowly disappearing each day. AFI gets us.
$18.32 (£14.67) Hottopic.com

This candle bleeds actual tears. So. Metal.
£4.99 Grindstore.com

We made an oath to never wear a long-sleeve top, then we saw this Oathbreaker one and BROKE IT.
£21.30 Consouling.be

This Frank Iero umbrella is an excellent umbrella, but would also double-up as a parachute if you ever find yourself accidentally falling out of a plane. Just hold onto it reeeeeally tightly.
$24.99 (£20) Kingsroadmerch.com

Spend all your money on this Pierce The Veil purse so it'll be really light when you carry it round. Win-win.
$18.50 (£14.81) Merchnow.com

This 1975 shirt was not made in 1975. If it was, there'd be moth holes in it.
$18.32 (£14.67) Hottopic.com

These Alien Facehugger plugs have a hollow centre full of tiny live Facehuggers that'll crawl inside your ears and infest your brain. Creeped out yet? Good.
£16.42 per pair
Etsy.com

"We're all mad here," whisper these Cheshire Cat faux plugs, before you take them out and put them on the side because non-human things talking is weird.
£20.16 each
Etsy.com

Is your favourite animal a jackalope? Well then, congrats on having really niche tastes. Here's some wooden ear-wear only you will love.
$21.95 (£17.58) per pair
Bm25.com

We don't remember there being any pink dinosaurs in Jurassic Park, but this one is only three inches tall, so maybe we just weren't looking hard enough. Hmmm.
$10 (£8) each
Dotoly.storenvy.com

Do you really wanna let classic horror genius Edgar Allan Poe into your head? Well, stick these things in your lobes and have raven-related nightmares forever.
$8 (£6.40) per pair
Arcticbuffalo.com

These plugs are made from howlite gemstone, which is a calming and stress-relieving crystal. Forget ears – we've ordered some for every room in our house.
£5 each
Sickplugs.co.uk

GIGS

DON'T MISS

DEAF HAVANA

WATCH OUT, UK VENUES, THESE ROCKERS ARE COMING TO TRASH YOUR DRESSING ROOM...

THIS IS THE BIGGEST TOUR YOU'VE EVER DONE, AND IT'S ALL PRETTY MUCH SOLD OUT – PRESUMABLY THIS MAKES YOU ONE HAPPY GUY?

JAMES VECK-GILODI (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "*So* happy, and *so* excited. We haven't done a proper headline tour in *ages*, and we've got so many new songs to play – all of us are so excited. We've got rehearsals, and I literally want to go to sleep now just so I can wake up, get down there and get going! This is huge for us, and I can't wait for it to get here."

ARE YOU FEELING THAT ALL THE HARD WORK UP TO NOW IS REALLY PAYING OFF?

"Yeah, though that comes in stages. When we first listened back to the new record [All These Countless Nights] I felt that really strongly, and seeing the amount of people who have bought tickets to come and see us made me feel really proud. I think it *has* paid off – I'm happy in myself, and believe me, that's a big achievement (*laughs*)!"

> ***"WE PLAYED BOWLING WITH FRUIT AND BEER!"***
> **JAMES VECK-GILODI**

AS YOU MENTIONED, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU TOURED – ARE YOU ALL GOING TO BE A BIT CREAKY WHEN YOU FIRST GET OUT THERE?

"Well, health-wise I'll very likely be a bit creaky! When it comes to the music, that's not going to be a problem at all, because we're all buzzing, and we're more enthusiastic than we have been in years, which I think is really going to show."

WILL YOU BE BRINGING HOT WATER BOTTLES AND OTHER SUCH COMFORTS TO HELP WITH YOUR CREAKY PARTS?

"Yeah, and my trusty vocal steamer! I can't live without that on tour! But if I'm creaky and sore I'll get to moan about it, and I *love* moaning!"

WHEN YOU GUYS LEAVE A VENUE DO YOU TEND TO LEAVE A UNIQUE TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS THAT DEAF HAVANA HAVE BEEN THERE?

"It goes a bit mental for a bit, sure – but then at the end of the night I feel guilty about it and run around tidying everything up (*laughs*)! I'll try to make sure that rubbish goes in the bin, and check we haven't left squashed bananas on the floor. One night, we decided it would be a good idea to play ten-pin bowling with fruit and beer bottles, which was actually really, really fun, but after that we had chunks of peaches up the wall, broken glass, *so* much mess – and everyone else fucked off and I had to clean it up! Well, I didn't *have* to, but by that time I'd sobered up and felt terrible for what we'd done and didn't want to leave it for some poor soul to clean up!"

FINALLY, YOU'RE A HUGE FAN OF COOKING AND HAVE STATED THAT ANYONE MESSING WITH WHAT YOU'RE MAKING IS TAKING THEIR LIFE IN THEIR HANDS – HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO CLOBBER A BANDMATE FOR THIS AFFRONT?

"No, luckily they're all big into their food, too, so I've not felt like I had to take my rage out on them! There's mutual respect there – we're all very into our food and I wish so much that there was such a thing as a tour bus with a fully-fitted-out kitchen, because I'd *love* to cook on tour. In fact, me and Tom [Ogden, drums] would probably not drink as much as we do on tour, because we'd be so happy that we could play around with recipes all day!"

DATES: O2 Ritz Manchester February 17, O2 ABC Glasgow 18, O2 Academy Bristol 20, O2 Institute Birmingham 21, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR UEA 23, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 24. Support: Dinosaur Pile-Up, Dead!.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTO:** GETTY

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY FEBRUARY 15

BRIGHTON Touché Amoré, Angel Du$t (Haunt)
BRISTOL ((OHHMS)), Mammoth Weed, Wizard Bastard (Stag & Hounds)
CARDIFF Spring King (Clwb Ifor Bach)
GLASGOW Anthrax, The Raven Age (Barrowland)
GLASGOW Firewind (Audio)
GLASGOW Sløtface (Nice N Sleazy)
MANCHESTER Four Year Strong, Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, Homebound, Boston Manor (Academy 2)
MANCHESTER Taking Back Sunday, Frank Iero And The Patience (O2 Ritz Manchester)
MANCHESTER Trivium, SikTh, SHVPES (Academy)
OXFORD Muncie Girls, Cassels (Cellar)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16

BIRMINGHAM Four Year Strong, Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, Homebound, Boston Manor (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
DERBY Galactic Empire, Sithu Aye (Venue)
GLASGOW Palm Reader, Toy Mountains (Garage Attic)
HUDDERSFIELD Muncie Girls (Parish)
LONDON Taking Back Sunday, Frank Iero And The Patience (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
MANCHESTER Firewind, Manimal, Scar Of The Sun (Academy 3)
NEWCASTLE Anthrax, The Raven Age (Northumbria University)

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17

BRISTOL Touché Amoré, Angel Dust, Departures (Fleece)
LONDON Four Year Strong, Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, Boston Manor, Homebound (KOKO, Camden)
LONDON Trivium, SikTh, SHVPES (Roundhouse, Camden)
MANCHESTER Deaf Havana, Dead! (O2 Ritz Manchester)
MANCHESTER Modern Baseball (Academy 2)
NEWCASTLE Band Of Horses (O2 Academy Newcastle)
NEWCASTLE Palm Reader (Jumpin Jacks)
NORWICH Anthrax, The Raven Age (UEA)
NOTTINGHAM Taking Back Sunday, Frank Iero And The Patience (Rock City)
SHEFFIELD Firewind, Manimal, Scar Of The Sun, Epitaph (Corporation)
STOKE Spring King, The Big Moon, Get Inuit (Sugarmill)
SWANSEA ((OHHMS)), Mammoth Weed Wizard Bastard (Scene)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

BARNSLEY Louise Distras (Underground)
GLASGOW Deaf Havana, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Dead! (O2 ABC Glasgow)
LONDON Modern Baseball, The Superweaks, Thin Lips (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
NORWICH Taking Back Sunday, Frank Iero And The Patience (Nick Rayns LCR, UEA)
NOTTINGHAM Trivium, SikTh, SHVPES (Rock City)
WOLVERHAMPTON Firewind (Slade Rooms)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19

BIRMINGHAM Palm Reader, Toy Mountains (Flapper)
LEEDS Band Of Horses (O2 Academy Leeds)
LONDON Firewind, Manimal, Scar Of The Sun (Underworld, Camden)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 20

BIRMINGHAM Band Of Horses (O2 Institute Birmingham)
BRISTOL Deaf Havana, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Dead! (O2 Academy Bristol)

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21

BRIGHTON Hellions (Sticky Mike's Frog Bar)
BRISTOL Band Of Horses (O2 Academy Bristol)
BRISTOL Pinegrove (Fleece)
BIRMINGHAM Deaf Havana, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Dead! (O2 Institute Birmingham)
LEEDS Touché Amoré, Angel Du$t (Brudenell Social Club)
SOUTHAMPTON Firewind, Manimal, Scar Of The Sun (Engine Rooms)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Pearl Jam
Eat some organic fruit, then smoke a pack of fags. Healthy!

PEARL JAM

5 x cases Ethos Water
4 x cans Red Bull
4 x cans Red Bull Sugarfree
16 x Gatorade
8 x assorted soft drinks – Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Sprite
6 x small bottles of Perrier or San Pellegrino
1 x large bag of white or yellow corn tortilla chips
1 x container of organic salsa
1 x plate of assorted cookies – bakery selection
1 x large bag of organic pretzels
1 x loaf of fresh wheat bread
1 x jar peanut butter
2 x small jars of jam – raspberry and strawberry
Brie or Camembert
1lb cluster red grapes – organic
1lb cluster white grapes – organic
6 x bananas – organic
8 x Balance bars
5 x packs Spectra Polaroid film
4 x cartons of Epsom salts
4 x ash-trays
4 x lighters
2 x packs of Trident gum
2 x packs Altoids
2 x medium-size bouquets of fresh flowers in vases

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

INKOMBAT! GREEN DAY VERSUS PAPA ROACH

KERRANG! TV – FEBRUARY 21, 6PM

Not content with taking on our country on their UK headline tour, Green Day have now turned their attention to Papa Roach. Busy beavers…

TWENTY ONE PILOTS: HEAVYDIRTYSOUL VIDEO

KERRANG.COM

They've been teasing and teasing aaaand teasing, and now TØP have finally revealed their long-awaited video for Heavydirtysoul. The clip sees Tyler being given the Uber journey of his life – but we don't think he'll be leaving a very good rating…

TOTAL PARTY! AIR GUITARS ONLY: TOP 25

KERRANG! TV – FEBRUARY 17, 4PM

Stop what you're doing! It's time to pull on your imaginary axe, turn your invisible amp all the way up to 11 and bust out your best Angus Young duck walk. Imaginary school uniform is optional, naturally.

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: ALICE COOPER, ISSTADION, STOCKHOLM, 1988

NOTHING COULD STOP THE AMON AMARTH FRONTMAN FROM ENJOYING HIS FIRST-EVER GIG…

JOHAN HEGG, AMON AMARTH

"The first show I *wanted* to go to was Metallica in 1986, but I was only 13 at the time, and my parents wouldn't allow me to go into Stockholm without them. But Alice Cooper was definitely a great first gig!

"I wouldn't say he was my *favourite* artist, but he was really big in Sweden at the time. I went with a couple of friends who were big fans, and the thing that most sticks out in my memory was when we were outside the venue, and there were right-wing Christian politicians picketing the show! They were ranting about Alice being a Satanist and they wanted to stop the show, and it was definitely a strange thing to see, but obviously they totally failed.

"It was really cool being around so many metal fans – there was such a sense of camaraderie, and everyone was there to have a good time, and that's something I really took away from it.

"The show itself was amazing. I can't really recall what he played, though I know all the classics were in there! Obviously I vividly remember Frankenstein walking around the stage, and Alice in a straitjacket and losing his head in the guillotine. My mind was totally blown by the time we were making our way back out of the venue."

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

MY VENUE

THE LANES

BRISTOL

22 NELSON STREET, BRISTOL, BS1 2LE

IAN CHADDERTON, EVENT ORGANISER

HEY, IAN! COULD YOU TELL US A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LANES?

"The Lanes was opened eight years ago as the ultimate adult playground; it's a pizzeria, restaurant and bowling alley by day, and a club and live music venue by night! It's been going from strength to strength since it opened."

WHAT'S YOUR ROLE THERE?

"My primary role with The Lanes is running our huge monthly pop-punk brand, Fat Lip UK – arguably the south-west's biggest and most notorious alternative night! After our success over the last few years, and taking the party to Download Festival in 2016, we've recently expanded to our sister venue in London at Bloomsbury Bowling Lanes."

IT MUST BE AMAZING TO WORK IN A PLACE THAT HAS BOWLING ALLEYS AND IS A MUSIC VENUE AT THE SAME TIME?

"It's awesome to work with a venue that's so unique to the area. The Lanes is completely perfect for our events that we host. I mean, come on – pizza, bowling, karaoke, table football, beer pong and pop-punk go hand-in-hand, right?"

RIGHT! YOU'VE ALSO JUST SET UP FAT LIP FESTIVAL – WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THAT?

"Fat Lip Festival is something we're really excited about. After our success over the past four years, we want to give something back to the people of Bristol for being so amazing and helping us achieve so much. We've put together a sick line-up: Young Guns, Feed The Rhino, Blood Youth, WSTR, As Lions, SHVPES and loads more. This being our first year, the pressure is on."

WHAT'S BEEN THE BEST EVENT TO HAPPEN AT THE LANES?

"We've had a bunch of bands play at our events. THE HELL was an especially crazy night – those boys know how to party! The best show we ever did, in my opinion, was a night when we held a pre-Reading Festival party in 2015. Four local bands chose bands from the Reading line-up and did full cover sets! We had PVRIS, Panic! At The Disco and New Found Glory – featuring Kris from Save Your Breath on vocals."

DO YOU HAVE MANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

"We don't intend on slowing down at all. The plan is to keep throwing awesome parties in both Bristol and London, expand Fat Lip Fest to more venues around the area, and continue to support our local scene in any way we can!"

FINALLY, ARE YOU FACING MANY CHALLENGES IN 2017?

"As club nights and brands age in time, it gets more difficult to keep things fresh and interesting for all of our party-goers. We're going to strive to keep ourselves relevant in a scene that gets very over-saturated and competitive."

This band are all smoke and mirrors…

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

BOOKING NOW

2000TREES FESTIVAL
Line-up: Slaves, Nothing But Thieves, Pulled Apart By Horses, Jamie Lenman, Feed The Rhino, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Muncie Girls, Black Foxxes, Grumble Bee, SHVPES, Bad Sign, Bellevue Days, Weirds, Personal Best, Cassels, Doe, Fizzy Blood, Sœur, John Matranga, Giants, Tigercub, Away Days, Apologies, I Have None, The St. Pierre Snake Invasion, Louise Distras, Milestones, Polary, Making Monsters, wars, Vukovi, Straight Lines, Steven Battelle, Petrol Girls, The One Hundred, Queen Kwong, Area 11, Greywind, Strange Bones. Cheltenham Upcote Farm July 6 – 8.

AGAINST THE CURRENT
Brighton Haunt March 8, Norwich Epic Studios 9, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 10, Edinburgh Liquid Room 12, Sheffield Leadmill 13, Cardiff Globe 14, London Bush Hall 17.

ALL TIME LOW
London Eventim Apollo March 10, Cardiff Great Hall 11, Southampton Guildhall 13, Cambridge Corn Exchange 14, O2 Academy Leeds 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 16, Liverpool Guild Of Students 18, Belfast Ulster Hall 19, Dublin Olympia 20, O2 Academy Bristol 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 23, O2 Academy Sheffield 24, O2 Academy Newcastle 25, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 28, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR 30, London O2 Academy Brixton 31. Support: SWMRS, Waterparks.

APOCALYPTICA
Manchester Bridgewater Hall February 27, Edinburgh Queen's Hall 28, London Royal Festival Hall March 1.

ARCTANGENT
Line-up: Explosions In The Sky, Converge. Bristol Fernhill Farm August 17 – 19.

ATTILA
Glasgow Garage April 1, Leeds Key Club 2, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 3, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 4, Bristol Marble Factory 5, Manchester Academy II 6, London Camden Electric Ballroom 7, Southampton Engine Rooms 9.

AUGUST BURNS RED
London Camden Underworld July 28, Bristol Fleece 29, Manchester Sound Control 30.

BASEMENT
Southampton Joiners February 28 – March 1, London Bush Hall 2 – 3, Manchester Deaf Institute 5 – 6, Glasgow King Tut's 7 – 8, Leeds Key Club 9 – 10. Support: Higher Power.

BLINK-182
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena July 3, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 5, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 7, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 11, Manchester Arena 14, Liverpool Echo Arena 15, Bournemouth International Centre 17, London O2 Arena 19 – 20. Support: Frank Turner.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Amon Amarth, Megadeth, Blind Guardian, Testament, Possessed, Hatebreed, Hell, Whitechapel, Decapitated, Brujeria, Obituary, Skindred, Annihilator, Municipal Waste. Derbyshire Catton Park August 10 – 13.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME
Line-up: Green Day. London Hyde Park July 1.

BURY TOMORROW
O2 Institute Birmingham April 14, O2 Ritz Manchester 15, Glasgow Garage 16, Newcastle Riverside 17, Leeds Stylus 19, Nottingham Rock City 20, Cardiff Y Plas 21, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 22. Support: Crossfaith, Black Peaks, Any Given Day.

COUNTERFEIT
Leeds Key Club April 18, Manchester Academy III 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, Glasgow Stereo 21, Nottingham Rock City Basement 22, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 23, Bristol Fleece 25, London Camden Underworld 26, Southampton Joiners 28, Brighton Haunt 29.

CREEPER
Manchester Academy II March 25, Glasgow Garage 26, Newcastle University 27, Leeds Stylus 28, London Camden Electric Ballroom 30, Southampton 1865 31, O2 Institute2 Birmingham April 1, Cardiff TramShed 2. Support: Milk Teeth, Energy, Puppy.

CROWBAR
O2 Institute Birmingham March 16, Sheffield Plug 17, Glasgow King Tut's 18, Manchester Academy3 19, London Dome Tufnell Park 20, Dublin Voodoo Lounge 21, Belfast Limelight II 22, Reading Sub89 23, Southampton Engine Rooms 24, Bristol Bierkeller 25.

DEFTONES
London Alexandra Palace May 5, O2 Apollo Manchester 6, Glasgow SECC 7. Support: AFI.

DESERTFEST
Line-up: Turbonegro, Samsara Blues Experiment, The Picturebooks, Satan's Satyrs, Yuri Gagarin, Vodun, Mammoth Storm, Elephant Tree, Sleep. London Camden April 28 – 30.

DEVIL SOLD HIS SOUL
O2 ABC2 Glasgow April 14, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 15, Bristol Thekla 21, London Boston Music Room 29.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: System Of A Down, Biffy Clyro, Aerosmith, Slayer, Prophets Of Rage, Rob Zombie, AFI, Five Finger Death Punch, Of Mice & Men, Sleeping With Sirens, Fozzy, Every Time I Die, Simple Plan, Motionless In White, The Story So Far, Pierce The Veil, Alter Bridge, Airbourne, Opeth, Clutch, Sum 41, Good Charlotte, Issues, Ministry, Mastodon, DevilDriver, Coheed And Cambria, Four Year Strong, A Day To Remember, Steel Panther, Northlane, State Champs, As It Is and loads more! Derby Donington Park June 9 – 11.

DUCKING PUNCHES
Southampton Joiners April 16, Plymouth Underground 17, Bristol Exchange 18, Birmingham Actress & Bishop 19, Sheffield Record Junkee 23, Nottingham Bodega 24, Leeds Key Club 25, Huddersfield Parish 26, London Monarch 27, Bradford Underground 28, Bolton Alma 29, Norwich Arts Centre 30. Support: Apologies, I Have None (27 – 30).

EVANESCENCE
London Eventim Apollo June 13 – 14.

EVAROSE
O2 Academy Oxford March 4, Southampton Joiners 5, Newcastle Jumpin' Jacks 6, Dundee Redd Suite 7, Glasgow Broadcast 8, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 9, Manchester Zoo 10, London O2 Academy2 Islington 11. Support: Veridan.

FAT LIP FESTIVAL
Line-up: Young Guns, Empire, Feed The Rhino, Straight Lines, WSTR, Blood Youth, SHVPES, As Lions, When We Were Wolves, Foes. Bristol The Lanes and Bierkeller July 29.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Norwich Waterfront March 16, Manchester Academy II 17, Newcastle Riverside 18, Glasgow Saint Luke's 19, Belfast Oh Yeah Music Centre 21, Dublin Academy II 22, Leeds Stylus 24, Birmingham Asylum 25, Cardiff Globe 26, Exeter Phoenix 27, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29, London Camden KOKO 30.

GHOST
Norwich UEA March 24, Cardiff Great Hall 25, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 26, O2 Academy Leeds 28, O2 ABC Glasgow 29, O2 Apollo Manchester 31, O2 Academy Birmingham April 1, Brighton Dome 2.

GOJIRA
O2 Academy Birmingham March 11, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 12, Manchester Academy 14, O2 Academy Newcastle 15, O2 Academy Leeds 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 17, O2 Academy Bristol 18. Support: Code Orange.

GUNS N' ROSES
London Stadium June 16 – 17.

HAND MADE FESTIVAL
Line-up: Twin Atlantic, Pulled Apart By Horses, Tigercub, Muncie Girls, Puppy. O2 Academy Leicester April 29 – 30.

HEAVY SCOTLAND
Line-up: Arch Enemy, Dyscarnate, Sodomized Cadaver, Disposable, Behemoth, Grave, Shiraz Lane, Centrilia. Edinburgh Corn Exchange April 1 – 2.

HELLIONS
Brighton Sticky Mike's February 21, Nottingham Red Room 22, Glasgow Garage Attic 23, Newcastle Jumpin' Jacks 24, Leeds Key Club 25, Southampton Joiners 26, Plymouth Underground 27, Cardiff Fuel 28. Support: Acres.

HIGHLY SUSPECT
Glasgow Saint Luke's March 4, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 6, Manchester Sound Control 7, London Camden KOKO 9.

HUNDREDTH
London Camden Underworld March 26, Birmingham

JUST ANNOUNCED

ARCTANGENT
Latest additions: TesseracT, SikTh, Employed To Serve, Tricot, Bossk, Lost In Kiev, Gug, Strobes, The Physics House Band, Wot Gorilla?

BLINK-182
Support added: The Front Bottoms.

BLOOD YOUTH
Glasgow Garage Attic April 8, Leeds Key Club 9, London Boston Music Room 10. Support: Loathe, Holding Absence (London and Leeds only).

COUNTERFEIT
Support added: Tigress, Faux.

DESCENDENTS
London O2 Academy Brixton June 4.

FORT FEST
Line-up: Fort Hope, Forever Still, Our Hollow, Our Home, Grumble Bee, Seasons, Eva Plays Dead, Massive, The Brink, In Dynamics, Fires That Divide, Ghost Riders In The Sky, Phoenix Calling, Skarlett Riot, Autumn Ruin, Making Monsters, The Bad Flowers, Apherium, Oceans. Bedfordshire Thurleigh August 4 – 6.

GREEN DAY
Sheffield Arena July 3. Support: Rancid.

MADINA LAKE
London O2 Academy Islington May 26, Manchester Sound Control 30, Glasgow King Tut's 31. Support: Lacey.

SIMPLE PLAN
London O2 Forum Kentish Town June 9.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Latest additions: Madina Lake, Zebrahead, The Ataris, Fenix TX.

SUBLIME WITH ROME
O2 Ritz Manchester August 10, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 11, O2 Academy Bristol 12.

TRAMLINES FESTIVAL
Line-up: Twin Atlantic, Spring King, Blaenavon, Fizzy Blood. Sheffield (various venues) July 21 – 23.

TRASH TALK
Manchester Rebellion February 26, Leeds Temple Of Boom 28, Glasgow Audio March 1, Newcastle Think Tank? 2, Birmingham Flapper 3, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 4, Bristol Exchange 5, Brighton Komedia 6, Bournemouth Sound Circus 7.

TRUCK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Slaves, Twin Atlantic, Nothing But Thieves, Vant, All Them Witches, ROAM, Tigercub, Yonaka, Sløtface. Oxfordshire Hill Farm July 21 – 23.

Y NOT? FESTIVAL
Line-up: Slaves, Twin Atlantic, Nothing But Thieves, The Hunna, Pulled Apart By Horses, ROAM, HECK, Tigercub, Muncie Girls, SHVPES, Grumble Bee, Bad Sign. Derbyshire Pikehall July 27 – 30.

THE ONE HUNDRED
Southampton Joiners May 1, Bath Moles 3, Plymouth Underground 4, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 5, Nottingham Rock City Basement 6, Glasgow Garage 8, Leeds Key Club 9, Birmingham Asylum 10, London Boston Music Room 11, Manchester Rebellion 13.

PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY

Flapper 27, Dundee Beat Generator Live 28, Glasgow Attic 29, Leeds Key Club 30, Bournemouth Anvil 31. Support: Landscapes, Silent Planet.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Thy Art Is Murder, Being As An Ocean, Miss May I, In Hearts Wake. Manchester Academy April 17.

IRON MAIDEN
Nottingham Motorpoint Arena May 4, Manchester Arena 8, Sheffield Arena 10, Leeds First Direct Arena 11, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 14, Glasgow SSE Hydro 16, Aberdeen GE Oil & Gas Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 20, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 21, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 24, London O2 Arena 27. Support: Shinedown.

JAMIE LENMAN
O2 Institute3 Birmingham April 27, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 28, Bristol Thekla 29, Manchester Sound Control May 1, London Scala 2, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 4, Leeds Key Club 5, Glasgow King Tut's 6.

JAPANDROIDS
O2 Institute Birmingham April 28, Glasgow Garage 20, Leeds Stylus May 1, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 2, Manchester Gorilla 4, Brighton Concorde II 5, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 6.

KATAKLYSM
London O2 Academy Islington October 10. Support: Graveworm.

KISS
Glasgow SSE Hydro May 27, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 28, Manchester Arena 30, London O2 Arena 31.

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS
Norwich UEA March 9, O2 Academy Birmingham 10, Manchester Academy 11, O2 Academy Leeds 13, O2 Academy Newcastle 14, O2 ABC Glasgow 15, London O2 Academy Brixton 17, Cardiff Great Hall 18. Support: Young Guns, Hands Like Houses, ROAM.

MALLORY KNOX
O2 Academy Bristol March 20, Cardiff TramShed 21, Norwich UEA 22, O2 Institute Birmingham 24, Sheffield Leadmill 25, Cambridge Corn Exchange 26, Aberdeen Garage 28, Edinburgh Liquid Room 29, Newcastle University 31, O2 Academy Liverpool April 1, Portsmouth Pyramids 2, O2 Academy Oxford 4, London Camden KOKO 5 – 6. Support: Lonely The Brave, Fatherson.

MANTAR
London Camden Black Heart April 5.

MAYHEM
London Camden Electric Ballroom March 29, Manchester Club Academy 30, Dublin Academy 31, Glasgow Lords Of The Land April 1.

THE MENZINGERS
Southampton Talking Heads April 18, London Camden KOKO 19, Bristol Bierkeller 20, Manchester Academy II 21, Glasgow Oran Mor 22, Derby Venue 23, Norwich Epic Studios 24. Support: The Flatliners, The Dirty Nil.

MONSTER TRUCK
Belfast Limelight II March 13, Dublin Academy II 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, O2 Institute Birmingham 17, Manchester Club Academy 18, Glasgow King Tut's 19, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, London Camden Electric Ballroom 22.

NAPALM DEATH
O2 Institute Birmingham May 9, Manchester Rebellion 11, London Camden Electric Ballroom 12. Support: Brujeria, Iron Reagan.

NEW FOUND GLORY
O2 ABC Glasgow September 27, O2 Academy Newcastle 28, Manchester Academy 29, O2 Academy Birmingham 30, O2 Academy Leeds October 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Academy Bristol 5, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 6, London Camden Electric Ballroom 7, London Camden Underworld 8.

OUTBREAK FEST
Line-up: Gorilla Biscuits, Turning Point, Title Fight, Breakdown, Broken Teeth, Fury, Freedom, The Flex and more. Leeds Canal Mills April 19 – 30.

PALLBEARER
London Camden Underworld April 6, Bristol Thekla 8, Manchester Ruby Lounge 9.

PARKWAY DRIVE
London O2 Academy Brixton April 8, Nottingham Rock City 9, O2 Academy Leeds 10, Cardiff University Great Hall 11. Support: Asking Alexandria, Stick To Your Guns.

PINEGROVE
Bristol Exchange February 21, London King's Cross Scala 22, Manchester Deaf Institute 23, Glasgow Stereo 24, Birmingham Mama Roux's 25, Cambridge Portland Arms 26, Norwich Epic Studios 28, Leeds Brudenell Social Club March 1, Brighton Haunt 2.

PRESS TO MECO
Leeds Packhouse March 4, Glasgow Audio 5, Birmingham Sunflower Lounge 6, London Camden Black Heart 7. Support: Massmatiks, Bellevue Days (London only).

PRIMUS
London Camden Roundhouse June 20.

PWR BTTM
Dublin Workmans Club April 10, Manchester Deaf Institute 11, Sheffield Harley 12, Birmingham Hare & Hounds 13, Glasgow CCA 15, Bristol Exchange 16, Brighton Haunt 17, London Islington Garage 18.

RAMBLIN' MAN FAIR
Line-up: ZZ Top, Monster Truck, Jared James Nichols, Kansas and more. Maidstone Mote Park July 29 – 30.

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Muse, At The Drive-In, Architects, Against The Current, The Amity Affliction, Korn, Jimmy Eat World, While She Sleeps. Reading Richfield Avenue, Leeds Bramham Park August 25 – 27.

REAL FRIENDS
Manchester Club Academy April 6, Birmingham Asylum 7, Newcastle Riverside 9, Glasgow Saint Luke's 10, Leeds Stylus 11, Bristol Thekla 13, Norwich Epic Studios 14, Southampton Engine Rooms 15, London Camden Electric Ballroom 16. Support: Can't Swim, Microwave.

RITCHIE BLACKMORE'S RAINBOW
Manchester Arena June 22, Glasgow SSE Hydro 25, Birmingham Genting Arena 28.

RITUAL FESTIVAL
Line-up: Ihsahn, All Pigs Must Die, Anaal Nathrakh, Miser, Bossk. Leeds Belgrave Music Hall April 8.

ROYAL REPUBLIC
Glasgow Garage March 30, Manchester Academy II 31, London Camden Electric Ballroom April 1.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enter Shikari, Don Broco, Bowling For Soup, Reel Big Fish, Less Than Jake, Cute Is What We Aim For, We The Kings, Beartooth, Tonight Alive, Against Me!, The Bronx, Goldfinger, Mad Caddies, The Movielife, Trophy Eyes, Like Pacific. Birmingham NEC May 27, Leeds City Centre 28, Hatfield Forum 29.

STATE CHAMPS
Southampton Engine Rooms March 9, O2 Academy Bristol 10, O2 Ritz Manchester 11, Newcastle Riverside 13, Glasgow Garage 14, Leeds Beckett University 16, O2 Institute Birmingham 17, London O2 Kentish Town Forum 18.

STONE FREE FESTIVAL
Line-up: Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow. London O2 Arena June 17 – 18.

SUM 41
O2 Academy Birmingham February 24, Manchester Academy 25, O2 Academy Leeds 26, Glasgow Barrowlands 28, London O2 Academy Brixton March 2, O2 Academy Bristol 3, Nottingham Rock City, O2 Guildhall Southampton 6.

TECH FEST
Line-up: The Black Dahlia Murder, Obscura, Aborted, The Arusha Accord, Hacktivist, Ingested, The Algorithm, Oceans Ate Alaska, Dyscarnate, Carcer City, Exist Immortal, Sarah Longfield, Alaska, The Fine Constant, Within Destruction, Aenimus, Toska, The Royal, Hieroglyph, FRCTRD, Fraktions, Nycosia. Newark Showground July 6 – 11.

THRICE
London Camden KOKO April 27, Nottingham Rock City 28.

TOGETHERFEST
Line-up: Youth Of Today, American Nightmare, Trash Talk, Vanishing Life, Wolf Down. London Electric Ballroom Camden February 25.

TRIVIUM
Manchester Academy February 15, Glasgow Barrowlands 16, London Camden Roundhouse 17, Nottingham Rock City 18.

TRNSMT FESTIVAL
Line-up: Biffy Clyro, Twin Atlantic, Circa Waves. Glasgow Green July 7 – 9.

UNDERØATH
O2 Ritz Manchester May 1, Dublin Academy 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 ABC Glasgow 4, O2 Academy Newcastle 5, O2 Institute Birmingham 6, Leeds Beckett University 8, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 9, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR UEA 10, O2 Academy Bristol 11.

WE ARE THE OCEAN
Glasgow Cathouse March 22, Manchester Sound Control 23, London Tufnell Park Dome 24.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS
York Fibbers April 20, London Tufnell Park Dome 22 – 23, Brighton Concorde II 25, Southampton Talking Heads 26, O2 Academy2 Oxford 27, Bristol Fleece 28, Manchester Academy II 29, Dublin Academy May 1, Belfast Oh Yeah Centre 2, Liverpool Arts Club 3, Stoke Sugarmill 5, Norwich Waterfront 6, Newcastle Riverside 8, Glasgow Garage 9, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 10, Birmingham Asylum 12, Leeds Stylus 13.

WITH CONFIDENCE
London Underworld Camden February 24, Southampton Joiners 25, Bristol Exchange 26, Leeds Key Club 28, Manchester Sound Control March 1, Glasgow King Tut's 2, Newcastle Think Tank? 3, Nottingham Basement 4, Birmingham Asylum 5, Norwich Epic Studious 6. Support: Broadside, Safe To Say, Milestones.

YOU ME AT SIX
O2 Academy Newcastle April 3, Plymouth Pavilions 5, Blackburn King George's Hall 6, Doncaster Dome 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 10, Bournemouth Solent Hall 11, Glasgow SECC 13, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 14, London Alexandra Palace 15. Support: Tonight Alive, Black Foxxes.

NEXT WEEK
ON SALE FEBRUARY 22

ALL TIME LOW
THE COMEBACK INTERVIEW

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

EDITORIAL

WHO'S THE WORST ROCKSTAR IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW?

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: William T. Jack *(Steve Beech)*, Jennyfer J. Walker *(Steve Beech, for being mean about my scooter)*.

SCARLET BORG: Scarlet. Borg.

INTERN OF THE WEEK: Abbie Witherington. *She wrote some of the news blurbs this week – that's pretty cool, huh? And her coffee is excellent.*
For all work experience opportunities, check out GoThinkBig.co.uk.

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THE ULTIMATE
ROCKSTAR TEST

SYNYSTER GATES
AVENGED SEVENFOLD

A7X'S GUITAR HERO. GOOD AT SHREDDING. EQUALLY GOOD AT CAUSING DRUNKEN MAYHEM…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

WHAT'S THE SILLIEST THING YOU'VE DONE WHILE PISSED?

"I was on 'shrooms once, and one of our crew came on the bus and said Jimmy ['The Rev' Sullivan, late A7X drummer] had got in a fight, so I charged out to find him. I was all freaked out going, 'Who the fuck hit you?' He was like, 'Dude, it's all good.' But I kept asking, and eventually he pointed at another band sitting, eating. In my confused state, I walked over and punched some other guy, who turned out to be a security guard. I got laid out by his pals. He was a really cool dude, so he took me aside and said, 'I know it was a mistake, but don't fucking punch me again, buddy.'"

WHAT'S THE CREEPIEST THING YOU'VE READ ABOUT YOURSELF ONLINE?

"I've seen some creepy photos, but nothing too weird. I don't read any of the creepy fan-fic stuff, but there's random Photoshopped pictures of me French-kissing Matt [M. Shadows]. That's a little odd!"

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR BIGGEST-EVER DIVA MOMENT?

"I'm not much of a diva, although the others might say different! The most recent one was when I wanted a bottle of Scotch, so I made my tour manager go back to our bus, which was 20 minutes away, to get my Laphroaig. That was a total diva moment and I felt bad, but it was after hours and we couldn't get any drinks, so y'know…"

We know. We send our TM out to get stuff, too…

FAILS AND F' UPS...

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?

"I've been arrested three times, due to alcohol, but I always got let out the next day. I got caught with weed at high school, and expelled, but the police weren't involved."

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THROWN OUT OF A SHOWBIZ PARTY?

"I don't *think* so, but it's entirely possible that I may have offended someone when I was drunk and got ejected. The joy of alcohol is doing all this stuff, and then forgetting it immediately!"

Until you realise you punched the wrong person and got beaten up for your troubles, eh?

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH & FAMOUS...

WHAT'S THE NICEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE FOR A FAN?

"Fucked them! Haha! [*Charming! – Decency Ed*]"

WHO'S THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON IN YOUR PHONE'S CONTACTS LIST?

"Chris Jericho [Fozzy/WWE tough guy] is a good friend, so maybe him. I don't really collect famous friends. I know Matt is calling Ozzy tomorrow, and he's gone for dinner with Cameron Diaz because we're friends with the Madden boys from Good Charlotte, but we're not very Hollywood."

Newsflash: dinner with Hollywood stars is apparently 'not Hollywood'

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

WHICH ROCKSTAR IS THE MOST LIKELY TO LEAD YOU ASTRAY?

"Vinnie Paul [Hellyeah, ex-Pantera]. Oh my God, he's the best – a scary, beautiful human being – but nights with him are intense, with strips clubs, copious amounts of alcohol and inevitably some blackout moments, resulting in horror stories the next day."

IF YOU COULD PLAY GUITAR ON TOUR WITH ONE POPSTAR, WHOSE BAND WOULD YOU JOIN?

"Damn! It's going to have to be Britney [Spears]. Back in the 2000s, she made some incredible music, and we definitely listened to a lot of Britney back in the day."

'Back in the day.' Sure, pal…

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

WILL SYNYSTER GATES SEE HEAVEN'S PEARLY GATES?

"Hahaha. I hope so, I'm a pretty good guy. But personally, I don't believe in Heaven or Hell. I think when you die, it's like how you were before you were born, with no consciousness of ever being here. There's just nothing, and that's fine."

You hear that, Satan? You're not real, and Syn thinks that's 'fine'…

THE VERDICT

THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT: WITH NO REGRETS OR APOLOGIES. AND POSSIBLY A BLACK EYE

SCORE 94%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	**AL JOURGENSEN** *MINISTRY*	100%
2	**ALICE COOPER**	99%
3	**BEN BRUCE** *ASKING ALEXANDRIA*	98%
4	**AWSTEN KNIGHT** *WATERPARKS*	96%
5	**AHREN STRINGER** *THE AMITY AFFLICTION*	95%
6	**SYNYSTER GATES** *AVENGED SEVENFOLD*	94%
7	**GREG GRAFFIN** *BAD RELIGION*	94%
8	**GENE SIMMONS** *KISS*	93%
9	**GRIFFIN DICKINSON** *SHVPES*	93%
10	**DAVEY HAVOK** *AFI*	92%
11	**FRANK CARTER** *FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES*	92%
12	**TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN** *NIGHTWISH*	70%
13	**CHRIS ROBERTSON** *BLACK STONE CHERRY*	52%
14	**EDDY BREWERTON** *MOOSE BLOOD*	31%

WORDS: PAUL BRANNIGAN PHOTO: JUSTIN BORUCKI

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X JAPAN

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EXCLUSIVE 60 MIN CUT INCLUDING DELETED SCENES

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